

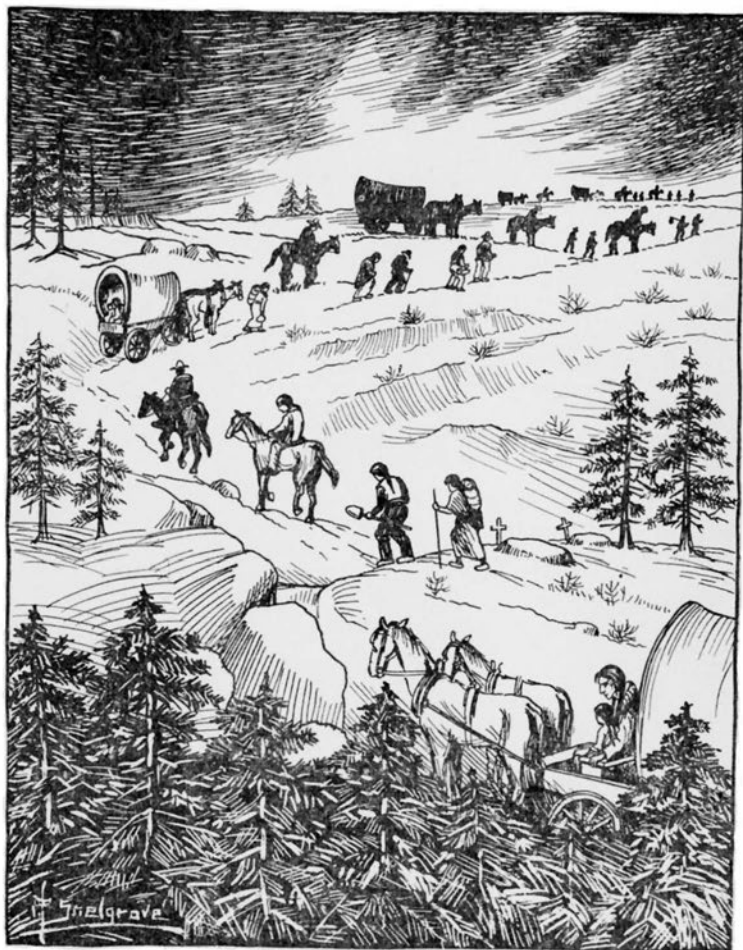
HISTORY
OF
WOODS
COUNTY
OKLAHOMA

GEO. R. CRISSMAN



Compliments
of
Geo. R. Crissman

The Trail of Tears



After the Cherokees had suffered heart-breaking insults, abuses and robbery, Pres. Jackson, in 1838 ordered Gen. Scott to remove them by force. The story is one of the saddest in all history. See Chapter II, "The Removal of the Cherokees."

A HISTORY
of
Woods County, Oklahoma

by

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We Build

TO

The KIWANIS of Alva

This little volume of local history stories is affectionately dedicated. To their cheerful and benevolent patronage the author is much indebted. By their generous support this history is made available, without charge, to every school in the county. A more public-spirited, a more unselfish group of men can nowhere be found. If ever the boys and girls of Woods county need a friend we commend to them the KIWANIS.

PREFACE

TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND TEACHERS

These local history stories have been prepared for use in the fifth or sixth grade. While we believe they stand the test of accuracy and truthfulness this little volume is in no sense a compendium of the historical facts of Woods county. We leave that task for someone who has a different purpose. It is our task to relate such stories as will interest children and at the same time give them an understanding of how our complex society has developed out of the simple elements that came here, an unorganized mass, on the 16th day of September, 1893.

All educational authorities assert that in the fields of geography and history, the simple local units should first be understood. From these elements that can be seen and experienced the child will naturally advance to the larger, more remote and more complex organizations. Without a treatment of the local units many children seem never to acquire a love for or an understanding of the complex organizations of government and society.

TO THE PUPILS

Here is a collection of stories that have to do with Woods County and the Cherokee Strip in which Woods County was located. You have probably taken automobile rides over every part of the country told about in these stories.

Some day you will read of the wonderful experiences and deeds of men in all parts of the world, but you will better understand how great nations have been built by first seeing how your own community began and developed, with industries, laws, towns, railroads,

telephones, good homes, highways, churches and schools.

Only sixty years ago, how different everything was right here where you are living. Wouldn't it have been exciting to have traveled over this country on horses through the tall grass and to have seen the deer, the antelope, the elk, the coyotes, the bobcats, the badgers, the panthers, the pelicans, the snowy herons, and the great flocks of geese and ducks, and, best of all, the vast herds of buffalo? Some people called this the "Garden of Eden" for hunters and trappers.

But, I think most of you would have feared to travel here then for there were bands of savage Indians here who rightfully claimed this as their hunting grounds and were very angry when they found white people coming into their country.

Now we shall leave you to read the stories. We hope you will enjoy reading and telling them as much as we have enjoyed writing them for you.

Your friends,

GEORGE R. CRISSMAN,
RUTH DAVIES, Co-operator,

P. S. Aside from the contributions by Miss Davies, I wish especially to acknowledge the helpful counsel and wise guidance of Frank Hatfield and J. P. Renfrew. Probably no other citizens of Woods County have been in such intimate and intelligent touch with the entire history of the county as these two men.

Much valuable information has been obtained from Judge Gus Hadwiger, Dr. G. N. Bilby, L. W. Moore, Col. T. J. Dyer, George W. Crowell, A. G. Vinson, C. D. Willard, D. W. Pierce, Judge Jay Glaser, Bert Beegle, W. G. Lamont, R. S. Armour and Miss Anna B. Fisher.

G. R. C.

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First Period, 1803-1893

CHAPTER I

HOW AMERICA WAS EXPLORED AND OCCUPIED

To the Pupils: As you read this first story look at Map 1 and locate the following places: 1. Atlantic Ocean. 2. New England. 3. Mexico. 4. New Orleans. 5. Oklahoma. 6. Cherokee Strip, containing Woods County. 7. Newfoundland. 8. St. Lawrence River. 9. Lake Champlain. 10. Mississippi River. 11. Missouri River. 12. Arkansas River. 13. Cimarron River. 14. Red River. 15. Gulf of Mexico.

Europe and America

Three European nations played leading parts in the early colonization of America. They were England, Spain and France. Each of the three had a different motive for extending its possessions into the New World.

The English

When the English Pilgrims sailed across the stormy Atlantic and settled on the shores of the new land they came in search of religious freedom. They wished to dwell in a country where they could worship God in the way they believed to be right. For many years they did not push far westward, but their colonies increased rapidly and soon spread all up and down the coast of the states which we now call "New England."

The Spanish

The Spaniards came to the New World in search of riches and gold. They settled first in Mexico and gradually pushed toward the north. Many brave



Map 1. Louisiana Purchase and Woods County

Spanish explorers led bands of followers far and wide in search of wealth. Chief among these was Vasquez de Coronado who led an exploring party in an attempt to find seven wonderful cities of which he had heard, seven cities supposed to be made all of gold. They were disappointed in their search, for they found the seven cities nothing more than small Indian villages with never a sign of wealth. But they did cross the rich prairies and beautiful grazing lands of southwestern United States—that very part which is now Oklahoma, and they claimed all the lands through which they traveled for Spain.

The French

The third of the colonizing nations, France, had still a different purpose in the New World. It was attracted by the abundant natural resources which this country offered. Very early they discovered the St. Lawrence River. Gradually they moved further inland, claiming the country as theirs. They prospered greatly, hunting, trapping and trading with the Indians.

The French Lands

The French, as well as the Spaniards, had among them many adventurers and explorers. A young fur-trader, Joliet, and a priest, Father Marquette, found the Mississippi River. Filled with wonder at the great body of water, they sailed for many miles along its course and exposed themselves to constant dangers. In 1682 Robert de la Salle, one of the greatest of French explorers, reached the mouth of the mighty river and planted there the flag of France. Henceforth, he claimed all the lands drained by the Mississippi, or by its tributary streams, for his King, Louis XIV of France. A good many years later the French established the city

of New Orleans. Thus, they controlled not only the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, but that of the Mississippi as well.

All the vast regions claimed by the French in America were called New France. They included most of the northeastern and central parts of what is now the United States.



La Salle at mouth of the Mississippi River proclaims that all lands drained by the mighty river belong to King Louis, of France.

The French Trappers

The French settlers did not try to start homes and towns, as did the English. Most of them lived wandering lives, without any fixed homes. They came to be rugged, hardy woods-men who trapped and hunted all

through the vast prairies and forests of the new lands. They pushed constantly further into unknown territories. They floated down the rivers in boats or on rafts, climbed the mountains, crossed the plains, learned how to meet all the dangers of life in the wilderness. Unlike the early Spaniards who dressed in shining armor the French trappers usually wore the skins of the animals they caught. In exchange for furs of great value they gave the Indians knives, paints, bright-colored beads and pieces of string, and bolts of gay cloth. Trading with the Indians often brought them great profit.



French Trappers and Fur Traders.

Oklahoma

The French trappers penetrated as far south as Oklahoma. Here game of all kinds abounded, the climate was mild, and there were few mountains or rivers to bar their progress. A single glance at the map reveals how great was the influence of these wandering hunters. Many names, particularly of rivers and creeks in the eastern part of the state, were first used by them. Such names as Verdigris, Arkansas, Poteau, Bois d'arc, Sans-Bois, Sallisaw, and Le Flore still serve as perpetual reminders of the French who once considered this territory a part of their possessions.

CHAPTER II

THE REMOVAL OF THE CHEROKEES

Georgia and the Cherokees

A large number of Indian tribes entered into the making of Oklahoma history. Most important of all of them were the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Chickasaws and Choctaws. These were called the Five Civilized Tribes because they made greater progress in the ways of civilization than any of the other bands of Indians. Only one of the five, the Cherokees, has a direct connection with the development of the northwestern part of the state, in which Woods county is located.

The Cherokee Indians have not always lived in Oklahoma. Originally the members of their tribe resided in Georgia, and in parts of Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina. (See Map 1.) For almost a hundred years Georgia claimed a large body of land extending west to the Mississippi River. These lands she finally agreed to give over to the United States in order that new states might be made from it. In return, the government promised to remove the Indians who occupied land within her boundaries.

The Western Cherokees

The task of removing the Indians was a difficult one. They deeply resented the encroachment of the white man. For many generations they had remained in one locality, and the beautiful forests, streams and fields of their home-land were dear to them. They felt that they were being robbed, and refused to leave their homes. But the white people were equally firm in their determination to be rid of the red men. At last a

part of the Cherokees asked permission of the United States government to move. The constant irritation made them unhappy, and they did not want to give up their Indian ways of living. This permission was readily granted. They were allowed as much territory in The Louisiana Purchase as they gave up in Georgia. For their new home they chose land in what is now northern Arkansas. Hereafter the Cherokees who wished to move west were called Western Cherokees. They included about one-third of the members of the tribe.

From Arkansas to Oklahoma

The first treaty was made in 1817. However the Western Cherokees remained unsatisfied in their new home because even as far west as Arkansas the white settlers were numerous and the Indians felt crowded. In 1828 they made a second treaty with the United States. According to the terms of this agreement they gave up their lands in Arkansas and took instead seven million acres in what is now northeastern Oklahoma. In addition, they received an "Outlet"—a strip of land 58 miles wide—extending as far west as the 100th meridian. This was called the "Cherokee Outlet" or "Cherokee Strip" and was given them in order that they might have free access to the hunting grounds of the great plains. (See Map 3.)

Driving Out the Cherokees

In the meantime the Eastern Cherokees, or those who remained in Georgia, faced increasing hardships. In an attempt to please the white people they improved their living conditions and set up a government modeled upon that of the United States. They rapidly learned to read and write, using an alphabet that had been worked out by one of their chiefs, Sequoyah.

Still the people of Georgia were not satisfied. They passed a law which made the workings of the Cherokee government null and void. Much of the Cherokee land was annexed by the state of Georgia. Ruthless white men seized their property and drove the Indians like dogs from their homes, pillaging and murdering without restraint. Gradually some of them realized that their only hope lay in giving up their well-loved homes and going to join their brothers in the west. Four of the most prominent men in the Cherokee tribe led the group favoring removal. They were Major Ridge, his son, John Ridge, and two of his nephews, Elias Boudinot and Stand Watie.

Treaty of New Echota

The leading Cherokee Chief, John Ross, and all his followers remained bitterly opposing the movement. They made repeated journeys to Washington, hoping to receive aid from the president, but all in vain. Andrew Jackson had been an Indian fighter and his sympathies were all on the side of the whites. In 1835 two commissioners representing the United States called a council of the Cherokee nation. They met at New Echota, Georgia, with only a small representation of the tribe in attendance. In spite of the determined opposition of most of the Cherokees a treaty was signed.

According to the treaty of New Echota the Cherokees were to receive an equal interest in the lands of the Western Cherokees, and were given three years in which to move. The majority of the people protested against the treaty, and made no attempt to leave. Finally after two years had passed, General Winfield Scott was ordered with several thousand troops to remove the Indians by force.



U. S. soldiers driving the Cherokees out of Georgia.

"The Trail of Tears"

The story of the removal of the Cherokees to Oklahoma is a very sad one and one that does not compliment our nation. Soldiers scoured the country, seized the few remaining Indian homes, and drove the unfortunate people into stockades, where they lived in misery until the beginning of the long trip. Often as the Indians were dragged from their homes they looked back only to see their beloved property being consumed by flames set by the white man's hand. Some of them attempted to escape from the camps, and were hunted down and shot without mercy. Disease and sickness ran rampant in the stockades. After every thicket, briar and garret had been thoroughly searched and all the Indian property confiscated the actual journey be-

gan. It occurred during the coldest part of the year, lasted many months and was filled with unending horror. Intense cold and hunger caused large numbers to sicken and die along the way. A trail of bleached bones marked the road. Several groups were forced to wait by the Mississippi river for the melting of the ice floe before they could cross. None possessed enough clothing or food. When the destination was reached the weary travelers were broken in spirit and in health, and worse than that, in hope. The large number who had been determined to remain in Georgia never forgave the few who had believed their only salvation lay in signing the treaty. Soon after their arrival Major Ridge, his son, and Elias Boudinot were slain, thus paying with their lives for the stand they had taken.

Thus the Cherokees came to Oklahoma. It was a home-coming which could never be remembered except with sorrow. Ever after the Indians have called the trail over which they came the "Trail of Tears." (See the Frontispiece, "The Trail of Tears.")

CHAPTER III

THE BUFFALO OF THE PLAINS

The Vast Herds

As we drive along the pleasant roads of Oklahoma and see a few cattle grazing peacefully in the fields it is hardly possible for us to realize that three-quarters of a century ago these same fields were thickly dotted with great herds of buffalo.

Because of its warm climate and rolling, grassy meadows the northwestern section of the state, especial-



A Herd of Buffalo

ly, was one of the favorite haunts of that giant animal, once the most numerous and valuable on the North American continent. It must have been a great spectacle to see those huge herds, often numbering easily as many as several thousand head. When they were frightened into a stampede, or when they plunged down the banks of a river to drink, the noise resounded like

thunder and the very earth seemed to tremble. Often the animals crowded so compactly together that no space could be seen between them, and they resembled a mighty, moving wedge.

Forms Picture of Animals

In 1832, Washington Irving, an author dear to all Americans visited Oklahoma, which was then truly the "wild west." From the articles he wrote one may form a very clear picture in his own mind of the buffalo of the plains. Describing a buffalo hunt, he said: "As the ground was level they shouldered along with great speed following each other in a line, two or three bulls bringing up the rear, the last of which, from his enormous size and venerable frontlet and beard of sunburnt hair, looked like the patriarch of the herd, and as if he might have reigned the monarch of the prairie.

"There is a mixture of the awful and comic in the look of these huge animals as they bear their great bulk forward with an up and down motion of the unwieldy head and shoulders—their eyes glaring venomously with an expression of fright and fury.

"—Of all animals, the buffalo, when close pressed by the hunter, has an aspect the most diabolical. His two short black horns curve out of a huge frontlet of shaggy hair; his eyes glow like coals, his mouth is open, his tongue parched and drawn up in a half crescent, his tail is erect and tufted and whisking about in the air; he is a perfect picture of mingled rage and terror."

The buffalo long furnished the chief supply of food for the roving bands of Plains Indians who wandered freely about the prairies and depended upon chance for food. But after the white man began his steady march across the country the buffalo could not

long remain. Gradually the mammoth animal disappeared east of the Mississippi river. Then for a time it roamed at will upon the western plains. But here, too, it finally became the prey of the hunters who followed upon the heels of the Indians as they submitted to the white man's rule.

Industry Destroyed Buffalo

Following the Civil War many young men came to the west to seek their fortunes. They soon found that the selling of buffalo hides, meat, and tongues brought them much profit. This was the beginning of an industry which in a short time entirely destroyed these animals. At the close of the war immense herds still grazed in Oklahoma; the supply apparently inexhaustible. But the seemingly impossible happened.

Within a few years they were thoroughly wiped out. At first, occasional hunters shot a number of bison and carried them to market on slow-moving wagons. Later, when the railroads extended their lines across the states this developed into a definite system. Parties of hunters often killed several hundred, or even a thousand head in one day. These were loaded into wagons, taken to camp or town, prepared for shipping, and sent across the country to Kansas City, Chicago, and other large packing centers.

Thus the "monarch of the prairie" gave way before the march of civilization. His grazing grounds have been transformed into fields of golden wheat, and the water of the rivers from which he drank is now used to turn the wheels of industry in the towns and cities of men.

CHAPTER IV

THE INDIANS OF THE PLAINS

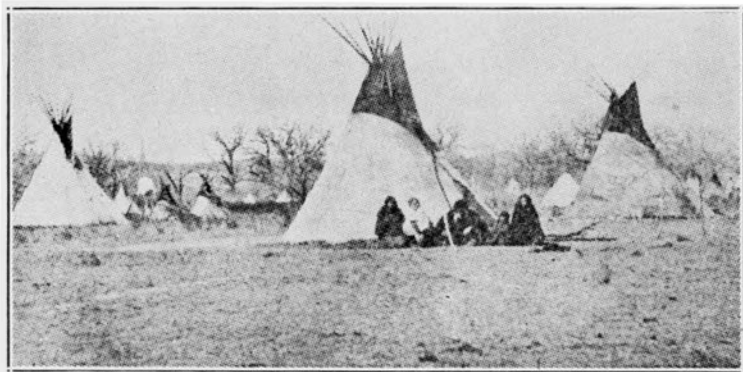
Quite different from the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes were the Indians of the Plains. Many scattered bands wandered about the central and southwestern states. They regarded all the great prairie region as their hunting ground. The most important of the Plains Indians were the Comanches, Apaches, Kiowas, Cheyennes, and Arapahoes. These tribes lived chiefly in Texas, Kansas and Colorado, but they made frequent excursions into western Oklahoma and looked upon it as their special property.



—Brooks, Story of the American Indian
Death of His Comrade

The life of the Plains Indians was a picturesque one. They were men of the great open spaces. Like the western country through which they roamed, they lived free and untamed. The withering heat of summer and the biting blast of the winter wind did not daunt them. Their bronze faces and straight, hard

bodies revealed great strength and rugged endurance. They felt most at ease on horseback. To many of them, their horses were their homes. Like darts they dashed across the prairies, horse and rider a striking figure against the bright blue of a western sky. They did not know the facts of science or of letters, but they were acquainted with God's great out-of-doors. The secrets of the forests, rivers and plains, were clear to them.



An Indian Camp

Lived in Saddles

Few Indians of the prairies had any fixed homes, though some tribes established villages and built houses of sod, hide, grass, or logs.

The great herds of buffalo which roved across the prairies furnished the chief supply of food. Also nuts, berries and wild fruit grew abundantly and could be secured with small effort. They were swift and unerring hunters and delighted in hunting expeditions. Every Indian boy was trained to become expert in the use of the bow and arrow.

The skins of animals usually furnished their

clothing—rude shirts, trousers, moccasins— all decorated with shells, beads, bright strips of string or of cloth. Frequently the men, as well as the women, had long hair. They braided it tightly and bound the straight, black braids with pieces of colored cloth. Ornaments and jewelry of all kinds fascinated these simple people. They willingly traded furs of great value for a few worthless trinkets of glass or for cheap beads and bracelets.



—Brooks, Story of the American Indian
A Lesson in Archery

Each tribe had its distinctive dialect. To the ear of the unaccustomed listener all Indian languages sound like an uncouth medley of guttural grunts.

The Plains Indians were slow to give up their own tongues, but they early learned enough of the white man's lingo to enable them to trade and bargain. The "heap big Injuns" delighted in besting the "pale-faces" in any kind of dealing.

Liked Their Dancing

The Indians of the plains spent much time in feasting and dancing. What a scene greeted the eye of the beholder on the occasion of an Indian dance. Imagine the shifting, painted figures, crouching—gliding—leaping—swaying—mixing their weird yells with the slow, insistent beating of the drum.

Some Indian musicians produced hauntingly sweet melodies on flute-like instruments.

All the prairie bands loved color, brightness, gaiety and leisure. To them, the beauty of nature—the blue-crimson of the flame, the golden spangled river in the sunshine, the rose and silver glory of the sunrise—were objects of wonder and of worship.

Religion and Superstition

The religion of all Indians is intensely real to them. The prairie tribes worshiped the sun and called upon it as the Great Spirit. The aspects of nature which they could not understand stirred their vivid imaginations and aroused their awe and reverence. They believed that many objects—trees, rivers, clouds, streams—were peopled with spirits, some good, some bad. Illness meant to them the presence of an evil spirit. They placed strong faith in their Medicine Men whose only method of cure was the performance of strange rites in honor of the sun-god.

Prairie Tribes War-like

All the prairie tribes were fierce and war-like.



Indian Medicine Man

Upon the slightest provocation they attacked other bands or white men. The good fighters often had several scalps dangling from their belts, and they lost no opportunity to add to their collections. The Comanches, Apaches and Kiowas were the last of all tribes to adopt modern instruments of warfare, but an arrow from the

bow of one of their chiefs was a deadly weapon and seldom missed its mark.

The Indian warriors presented a gaudy picture. They painted their faces in brilliant hues—red, orange, black—using fruit juices or bright clays to make the desired shades. Chiefs and Medicine Men wore headdresses of large, gaily-colored feathers, with a string of feathers dangling behind them. Before fighting the Indians usually danced and prayed to the sun-god, imploring his protection. The following prayer is characteristic of a warrior: "Kon-c-ko-on-ta (Grandfather), give me



—Brooks, Story of the American Indian
The Scalp Dance

success in war, that I may get many scalps and much plunder and never be hurt myself."

After a big fight, if the warriors returned with scalps, a grand jubilee was held. The scalp dance was a grim performance generally lasting about three weeks

with dancing day and night. The women were privileged to dance, the squaws showing the greatest fierceness and most devilish joy.

Attacked White Men

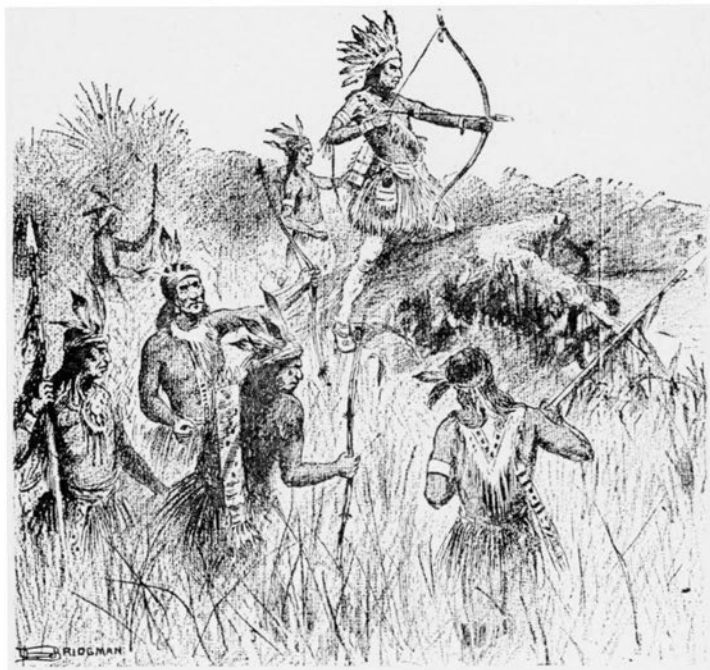
The Plains Indians, and especially Comanches, made repeated attacks upon parties of white men. They particularly resented the hunters who killed the buffalo and game which they regarded as their own. Many frightful massacres occurred and none who ventured into the western country was safe from danger. The Indians approached unseen, and charged upon their victims with blood-curdling screams of rage, often inflicting barbarous torture.

CHAPTER V

OKLAHOMA PRAIRIES

Hunting Parties and Game

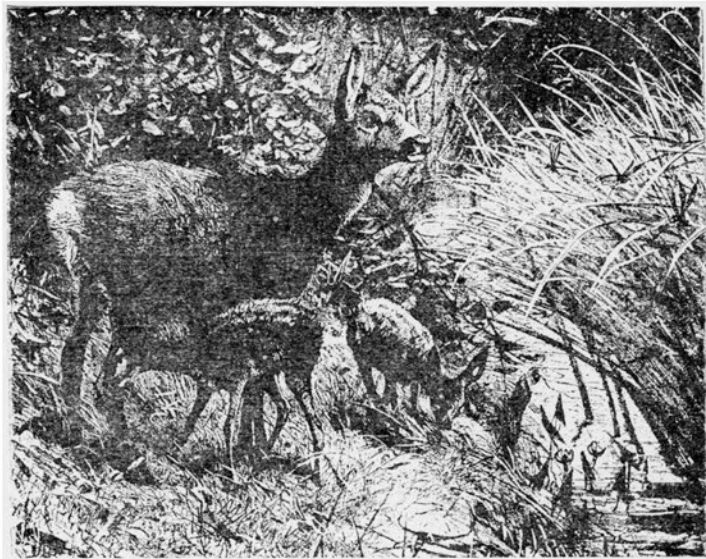
For untold centuries before the coming of the white man the Oklahoma prairies were practically uninhabited. But many times they resounded with the war-cry of the red man who staged many of his bloodiest skirmishes upon them. Often in those by-gone days



—Brooks, *Story of the American Indian*
An Indian Hunting Party

the savage shouts of hostile warriors and the glint of flying tomahawks pierced their serenity. To the prairies, also, the Indians came on hunting expeditions.

Mounted on swiftest ponies they dashed headlong after their prey, their arrows whizzing through the air with never failing sureness of aim. Days of feasting and dancing followed the hunt, days when the smoke of Indian camp-fires rose black against the splendor of the Oklahoma sun-set. Huge herds of buffalo grazed upon



Finding a Cool Drink

these prairies and lumbered heavily toward the streams to drink of the cooling waters. The tall grasses, set in undulating ripples by the summer breeze, sheltered small animals and game of all kinds. Fleet-footed deer darted like phantoms through the deep stillness. And across the quiet of night shivered the melancholy howls of far-off coyotes.

Coming of the White Man

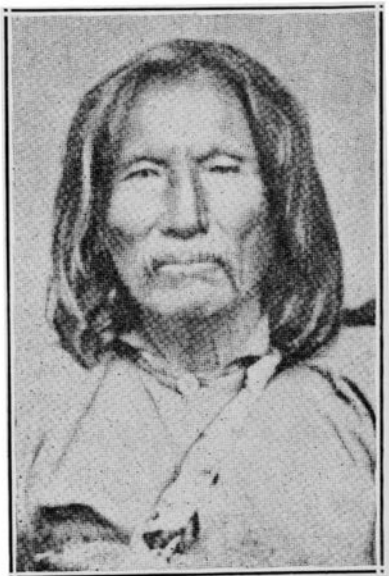
Then, suddenly, like a bursting bomb, other sounds pierced the age-old quiet of the prairies. The white man had come with his gun, his axe, and his plow! In an incredibly short time the whole aspect of the plains changed. The wandering buffalo gave place to herds of cattle. The sturdy dwelling of the white man replaced the Indian tepee. The tall grasses went down before the farmer's plow, and in their place sprung up row after row of corn and wheat. From a wilderness the prairies were transformed almost in a day to the richest of agricultural regions. Oklahoma became, indeed, a land of golden grain, a land of abundant harvests.

CHAPTER VI

"THE TREATY OF MEDICINE LODGE"*The Plains Indians After the Civil War*

During the Civil War while the United States troops were withdrawn from the southwestern frontier forts the Plains Indians scoured the prairies without restraint and fought continually. They plundered and massacred not only white travelers and settlers, but also bands of peaceful Indians. Their enmity against the government increased after a number of Indians had been killed by soldiers. Several attempts to curb the fighting of the red men were made in vain. When the Civil War ended the government took definite steps toward settling this continual Indian war-fare. A commission was appointed by the President. It was decided that a council should be held with the fighting tribes in order that Indian affairs might be arranged for all future time.

It was difficult to persuade the Indians to assemble. They were experts at disobeying orders. Medicine Lodge, in the southwest part of Kansas, was named as the location for the council. Notices were sent out three months in



—Hatcher and Montgomery
Santank, Kiowa Warrior

advance to give the redmen ample time for "cooling off." A large number of military and civil officials, newspaper reporters, interpreters and scouts, and a military escort accompanied the commission to Medicine Lodge.

Warriors Rush Party

They made the last hundred miles of the journey in wagons, as the railroads did not extend to the appointed place. As the party neared its destination and could see the Indian tepees pitched a few miles ahead a strange thing happened. Thousands of warriors in full war regalia, with their faces, bodies and horses painted in brilliant colors, dashed at full speed out of the camp and toward the white men. Suddenly the charging mass of riders formed itself into a huge wheel-shaped ring composed of five distinct circles of horsemen.

The ring wound round and round with perfect regularity, advancing at each turn closer to the commission-party. The riders plunged forward with startling speed, but with never a flaw in their exactness of movement. Onward they rushed with thundering clamor of horses' hoofs. When almost upon the quaking "palefaces" the wheel abruptly came to a standstill. Then an opening was made, and the members of the commission were led through the five rings of wildly painted warriors to a space in the center.

The white men were at the red men's mercy! There followed the smoking of the peace pipe. To the Indians this is a very grave and dignified ceremony. All of the Chiefs and Medicine Men except White Antelope, advanced and took a puff from the pipe. This signified that all would make peace but him. After the pipe had gone all around, the war was considered

at an end. The commissioners returned unharmed to their wagon-train, and proceeded to Medicine Lodge. There the white men arranged their wagons in a circle four deep, like a stockade. They knew it was always best to prepare for danger when dealing with Indians.

Cheyennes Hold Out

All the warring tribes had assembled except a part of the Cheyennes. They were encamped about 50 miles away. For two weeks the commission labored to pacify them. Black Kettle, head chief of the Cheyennes was eager to have all his people make peace. Finally the stubborn Cheyennes came in. In the meantime, White Antelope had been won over to accept peace also. The commissioners knew exactly how to deal with the Indians. They provided plenty of food, and kept great pots filled with steaming black coffee which the Indians could drink at any time. Also they distributed beads, ribbons, blankets, ponies, and trinkets with a lavish hand. These things are the chief delights of the red men. A Kiowa Chief, Ton-ne-en-ko (Kicking Bird) took a fancy to a high silk hat belonging to the president of the commission. The hat immediately changed owners, and Ton-ne-en-ko became its proud possessor.

The Dog Feast

When all the Indians had agreed upon peace they decided to give a feast in honor of the white men. It was a dog feast. Indians like dog as Americans like turkey. Each guest was given a plate of cold dog, crackers and a cup of coffee. Many amusing things happened, but the funniest was the appearance of Ton-ne-en-ko. He came to the feast in full evening dress, as he understood evening dress, which included only his

breech clout and the high silk hat! And this hat was decorated with a band of red ribbon around the crown and three long red streamers hanging down to the ground.

Sign Treaty

After the Indians had been flattered and petted and fed and given presents until they were in a good humor the treaty of Medicine Lodge, made in October, 1867, was signed. It provided that the Plains Indians should leave Kansas, and gave them large reservations in the southwest part of Oklahoma with a great hunting range south of the Arkansas River. The Indians now agreed to stop fighting. Although there were some bloody frays thereafter like those at Adobe Walls and Buffalo Wallow, the tribes never went on the war-path again.

CHAPTER VII

THE BATTLE OF ADOBE WALLS

Indian Hunting Ground

It was a hot temper that characterized the spirit of the Red Men of the Plains. They had only contempt for the five civilized tribes now living peacefully in the eastern portion of the new Indian Territory. Over the broad open prairies, south of the Arkansas river, they still had a hunting range of 100,000 square miles. This was their last, except the arid regions, and they were resolved to keep it at any cost.

In the northern part of this region, probably 100 miles south of Dodge City, in the valley of a small branch of the Canadian river, and just over the western border of the present state of Oklahoma, the cowboys and buffalo hunters decided to erect a stockade and a supply house of sod with walls two feet thick, which they called "Adobe Walls." Here the soil was rich, the grass was rank, an excellent spring was found and the little valley was almost surrounded by great rocky bluffs from 30 to 100 feet in height. Never before had there been any sort of habitation for white men in all this part of the country, for it was generally understood by both the Indians and the white men that the former considered this the best of all their southern hunting grounds and that the white men were to keep out.

Warn White Men

When, therefore, the stockade and trading post began to be erected, the Indians quickly notified the workmen and freighters to get out of their country and carry their stuff with them back across the Arkansas

river. Even before the erection of this stockade at Adobe Walls, the Indians had observed with grave alarm the wholesale slaughter of their buffalo. Now they asked themselves, "what hope is left for us if we permit this trading post to be erected in the very heart of our buffalo lands?" The thought of it made them wild with rage and once more they mounted their ponies, approached the cowboys and made signs for them to get out of the country. They reminded them too of the white man's treaty at Medicine Lodge only seven years before, when it was agreed that the lands south and west of the Arkansas were to be their hunting grounds forever.

But cowboys and frontier traders are not easily frightened and so the erection of the fort continued. As to the rights of the Indians and their threats, they cared nothing for such matters. The cowboys only scoffed at the Indians and pointed to their long-range, 50-caliber Spencer rifles. This was more than the Indians could endure and they decided in their fury to utterly destroy Adobe Walls and scalp all who were found there. War, they thought, was the only thing that was left to them, and the only way to keep the white men out.

Buffalo Slaying Continues

Meanwhile, the extermination of the buffalo went on apace. The immense traffic in their hides was very profitable and vast herds were being slaughtered, their carcasses often left on the plains for wolves and buzzards while the freighter carried the hides 150 miles north to the new Santa Fe railroad.

All was excitement now among the Indians. They first held their fire dances. Here their chiefs, Lone

Wolf and Quanah Parker, and their medicine men with loud and vicious war whoops showed the warriors how



—Hatcher and Montgomery
QUANAH PARKER,
After accepting civilized life.

to kill and scalp the enemy. When the war spirit was hot, they mounted their ponies and hurried away to their savage deeds. A bold and determined band of young warriors from the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Comanches and Kiowas had made their vows to utterly destroy the trading post and to scalp every cowboy to be found. One of their medicine men, probably Spotted Wolf, had made them believe that he possessed a charm, that would take away the power of the white man's bullets to do them harm, so they became fearlessly brave.

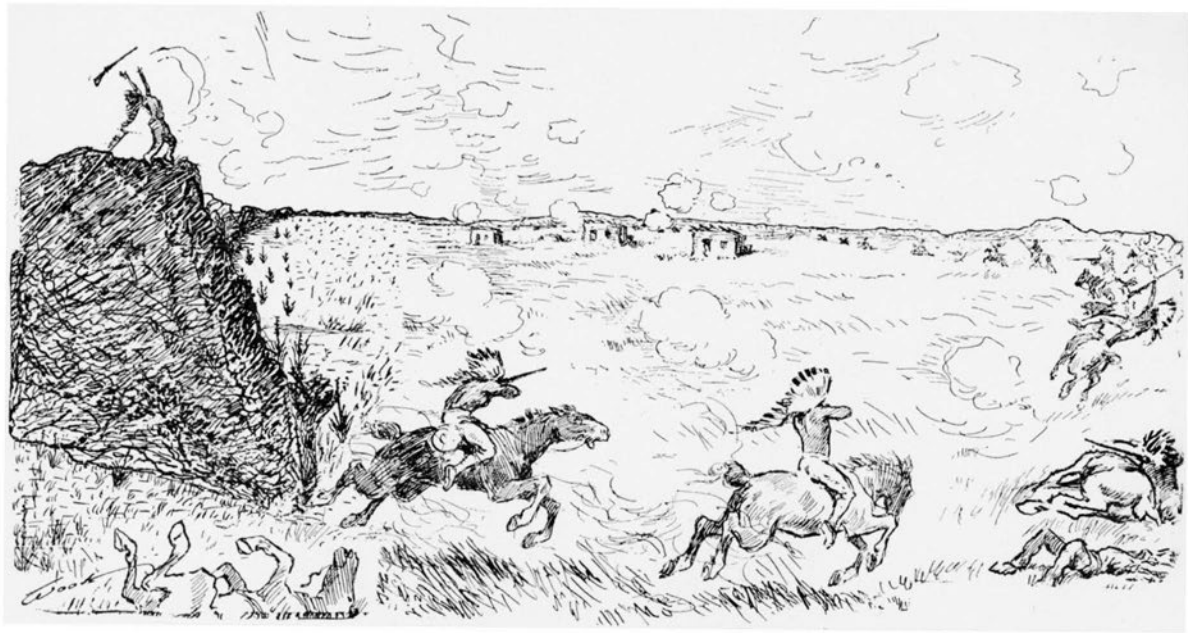
Off they galloped, 600 or 800 Indian warriors, all bound for the trading post of Adobe Walls, where they arrived before the dawn of day, June 27, 1874. As the great stockade had not yet been completed they rode right up to the trading post or "lodge" where all but two of the twenty-six cowboys were still asleep.

Many of the horses and two of the men were horribly pierced by their long sharp arrows during their first wild charge. But, early as it was, two of the cowboys were already up and were making ready for the day's hunt. These instantly gave the alarm and, guns in hand, ran for the big "lodge." Now cowboys are "quick on the trigger" and at once their guns began to do their deadly work, so that soon a score or more of the Indians and their horses lay dying in the bloody grass.

Carry Attack Three Days

All day long and for part of the night the attack continued, the Indians making their charges with the fury of fiends and demons. Not a cowboy slept, nor scarce did he eat or drink, so determined were the Indians to kill. The second day was like unto the first. At day break of the third day there appeared on the top of the northern bluff, the figure of an Indian medicine man all painted in red and yellow with great rows of feathers on his arms and hands, a high ridge of feathers covering his head, and a huge streamer of feathers floating from his head to the ground behind him. There he stood all alone on the very crest of the bluff with his head lifted high and facing the rising sun. As the sun's first rays came into view, he danced with wild excitement, flopped his wing like arms, bowed low to the ground and repeated these gestures as if he were making signs of worship, which indeed he was, for he was a sun worshiper.

The cowboys watched him a few minutes, knowing his warriors were just over the bluff and that he was getting them ready for another attack. Then old Bill Dixon reached for his big buffalo rifle and said,



The Death of the "Medicine Man."

The Indians' Method of Fighting.

"Boys, I'm going to take a crack at him." So saying, he took careful aim at the dancing figure more than three-fourths mile away. Pop went the rifle but Spotted Wolf kept dancing on. Then another shot and the dancing stopped instantly, and to their great wonder, Spotted Wolf rolled in a heap down, down, over rock and cliff to the very botton of the bluff.

Soon the warriors were seen dashing hither and thither behind the crags; then with the speed of the wind a half dozen galloped down the side of the bluff, and leaning low over their ponies grabbed the dead body of Spotted Wolf and quickly disappeared on the other side.

Dixon is quoted by MacDonald of the "Kansas City Star," as saying:

"There was never a more splendidly barbaric sight. Hundreds of warriors, the flower of the fighting men of the southwestern plains tribes, mounted upon their finest horses, armed with guns, lances, bows and arrows, and carrying heavy shields of thick buffalo hide, were coming like the wind. Over all was splashed the rich colors of red, vermillion and ochre, on the bodies of the men, on the bodies of the running horses. As they came closer I could see scalps dangling from the bridles, gorgeous war bonnets fluttering with plumes, bright feathers dangling from the manes and tails of their horses, and the bronzed, half-naked bodies of the riders glittered with ornaments of silver and brass.

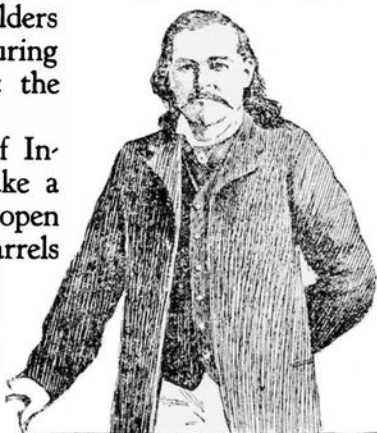
"Time and again, with the fury of a whirlwind, the Indians charged upon the building.

"Through the whole of that sweltering June day that incredible seige went on, 500 Indians, or more, against that little band of white men. They would

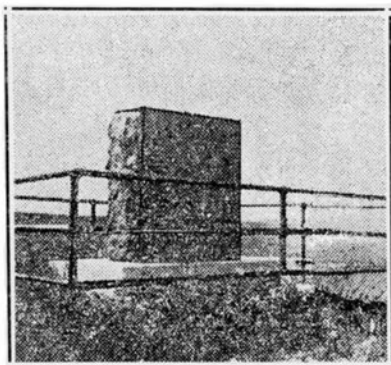
form in the shelter of the timber along the creek and charge upon the sod houses, circling them, lying low behind the necks and shoulders of their horses and pouring lead and arrows against the earthen walls.

"Sometimes a group of Indians on foot would make a run together for an open window, ram their rifle barrels through the windows and shoot. The most deadly fighting was done at those times, hand to hand and face to face."

The battle had now



BILLY DIXON,
As he looked, 1874.



Memorial Monument at Adobe
Walls.

raged for three days. All of the horses and cattle of the cowboys and freighters had been killed. There they lay, seventy-five ghostly bodies studded with arrows and torn with bullets. But what of the cowboys? Their shooting was still as strong and deadly as on the first morning.

Only three had been killed. And the hated trading post, though filled with arrows and bullet holes, seemed as formidable as ever.

It looked like a repetition of the old, old story—the Indian must bow to the white man. More than half a hundred of their “braves” and very many of their horses were dead. Every new charge upon the cowboy fort meant that more of their brave warriors never returned. And now that Spotted Wolf, their dauntless Medicine Man, had fallen, their spirits were broken; they gathered many of their dead on their ponies and rode away, back to their people to tell the sad story of the battle of Adobe Walls, the last major conflict between the pioneer whites and the Plains Indians of Oklahoma and Texas.

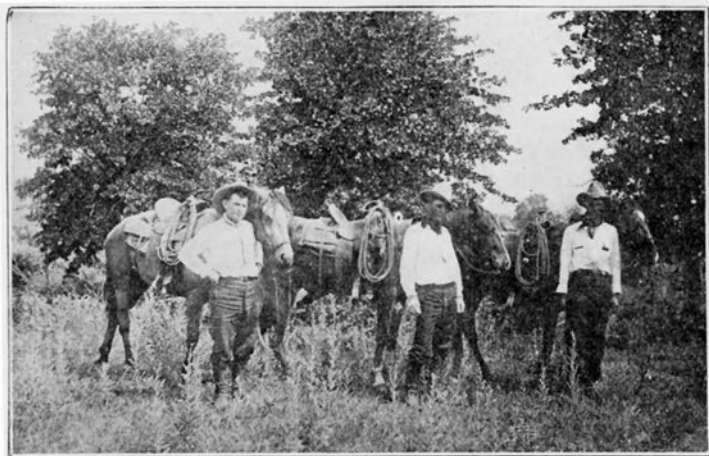
Henceforth the Red Men of the plains must accept the white man's yoke of civilization.

CHAPTER VIII

"THE OVERLAND CATTLE TRAILS"

The Texas Cattle Ranges

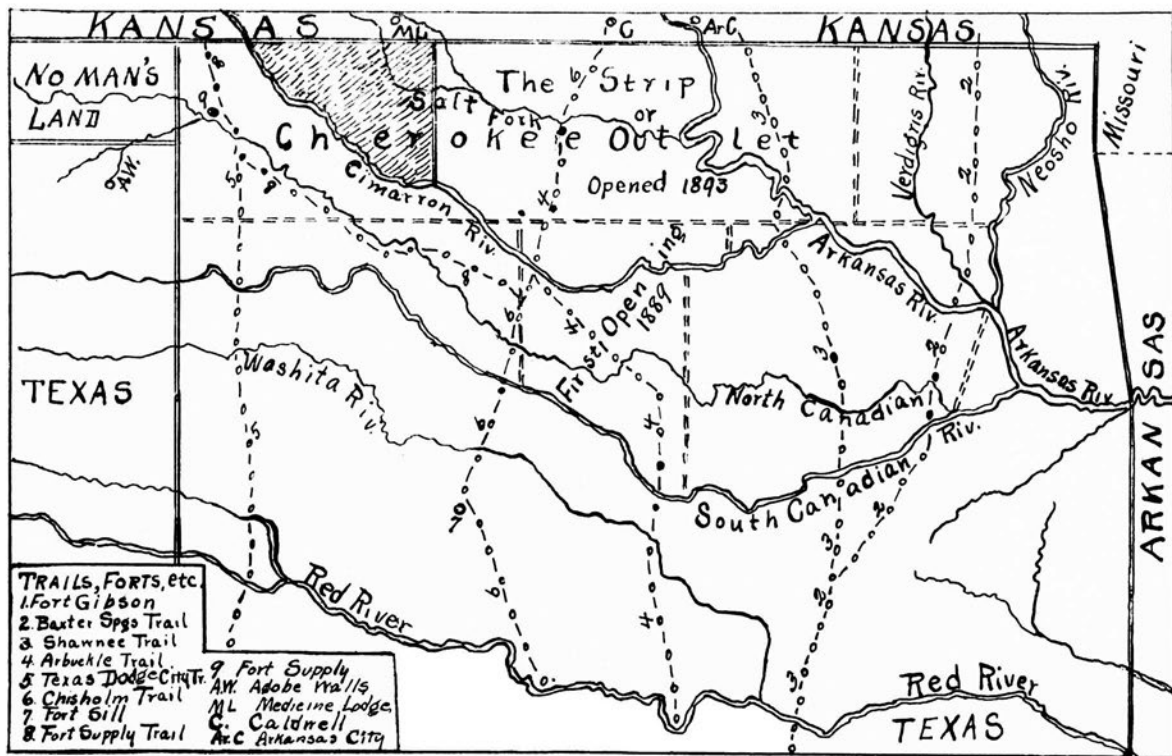
As the buffalo of the plains disappeared their place was rapidly taken by cattle. By the close of the Civil War the state of Texas had become a great cattle-raising region. Large herds grazed upon the fertile ranges in the mild southern climate. But there was no market for cattle in the South, and without markets the cattle business could yield no profit. As a result, a number of cattlemen determined to drive their cattle north across the country to railroad towns where they



Three Cowboys.

could be shipped to large market centers. Thus began the "Northern Drive."

It was no small task to drive a large herd of cattle over the long stretches of prairie land which lay be-



Map 2. Oklahoma Cattle Trails

tween the Texas ranges and the shipping points. The drives were started in the spring, usually with herds numbering several thousand head. The drivers had to



Cattle on Trail and Cowboys with Horses in Coral.

be men of patience, endurance, and ingenuity, for the journeys were very slow and there was constant danger of storms, stampedes and Indian attacks. At first, the

usual route lay through the land of the Five Civilized Tribes, but these Indians naturally objected to the huge herds of cattle being driven across their fields. (Find the Shawnee and Baxter Springs Trails on Map 2.)

Gangs Stole Herds

The greatest sources of trouble were the bands of lawless men who attacked and often killed the drivers, scattered the herds, and became the arbitrary owners of the cattle.

The Cow Towns

The earliest shipping point used by cattlemen was Abilene, Kansas. Later Wichita, Caldwell, Ellsworth and Dodge City, came to be the great "cow towns." They changed almost overnight from villages of no importance to bustling booming towns. They overflowed with an ever-moving tide of men—buyers, sellers, fortune-seekers, gamblers, cowboys, criminals, prospectors—all called together by the growth of a new industry and the lure of adventure. The click of the trigger, clank of the spur, and the shifting figures on the dice were the prevailing laws.

North Good Feeding Land

It was soon discovered that the northern plains states, such as Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas, were good cattle territory. The warm southern climate in Texas for breeding, and the cooler northern climate for feeding, made a splendid combination. Many owners came to have herds in both places, and the "Northern Drive" became more common than ever. Oklahoma lay just between the two great cattle-raising regions. Many of the older residents of Kansas and Oklahoma can remember the immense herds which

were driven across these states during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. In the distance they appeared like black swarms of bees. On closer approach the animals could be discerned, a slow-moving, eddying wedge. On they came, nearer—nearer. Finally, with a great rumbling, the herd passed by—drivers to the front and back, drivers to the side, drivers with cracking, snapping whips which kept the sleek, fat, lumbering cattle in a compact mass and ever on the move. Ten or a dozen drivers could handle several thousand head, but they had to be constantly alert and quick with the whip.

Starting the Cattle Ranches in Oklahoma

The men who pushed their herds across the fertile fields of Oklahoma were not slow to see the advantages of ranching in this state. Often they stopped and allowed their cattle to graze for days and weeks. From Texas on the south and Kansas on the north a few head of cattle, and occasionally whole herds, strayed across the boundary into Oklahoma. The prairie lands of the Cherokee Outlet were recognized as especially adaptable for ranching. (See Map 3.) In spite of the opposition of the Cherokee Nation an ever-increasing number of cattlemen pushed their way into the Indian territory. The Cherokees then proceeded to collect taxes from all owners whose cattle grazed in the "outlet." As a result of the conditions which followed the insistent invasion of the ranchers there arose that great organization known as the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association.

CHAPTER IX

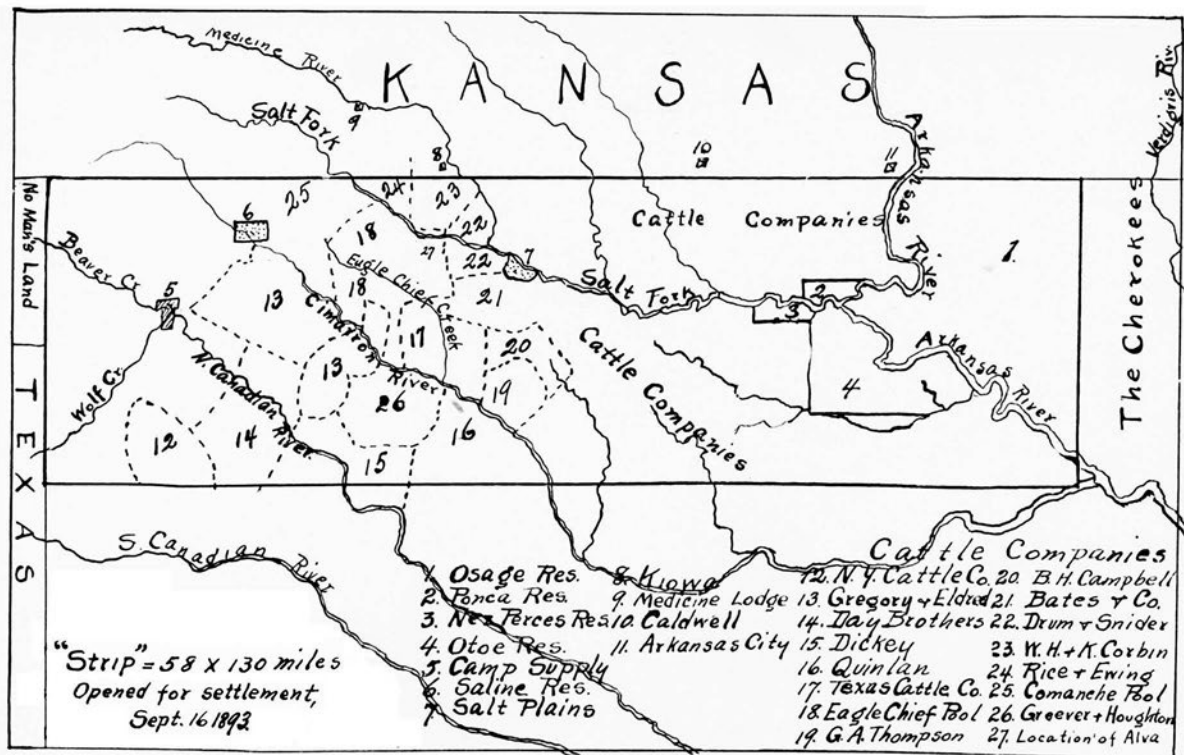
CHEROKEE STRIP LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION

Changed Conditions in the "Strip"

When the Cherokees were removed from Georgia to Oklahoma they were given a large reservation, on which they settled, and also a large "Outlet" extending west to the 100th meridian, which was then the western boundary of the United States. For many years thereafter the Cherokee Outlet was not used except as an occasional hunting ground for wandering Indians. After the Civil War, the Cherokees, who had fought mostly on the side of the South, made a new treaty with the United States government. By the terms of that agreement the United States was given the right to locate friendly Indian tribes in the Outlet. The Osages, Kaws, Poncas, Otoes, Missouris, Tonkawas and Pawnees bought reservations in the eastern part of the "Strip," thus cutting off the uninhabited portion of the Outlet from its owners. This western portion still belonging to the Cherokees was large. It had a length of 180 miles, a width of almost 60 miles, an area greater than Massachusetts and as large as Belgium. (See Map 3.)

Immediately after the Civil War, there began the rapid expansion of the cattle raising industry. This resulted in the Northern Drives.

At first the Cherokees paid no attention to this invasion of their lands, but as the ranchers took on an aspect of permanence, the Indians sent out an agent to collect taxes. They realized that the time had come for them to receive some returns for the use of their property.



Map 3. Cherokee Strip Cattle Companies.

Difficulties Arise

As more and more men brought their cattle to the Outlet many difficulties arose. Some refused to pay the fees demanded by the Cherokee government, causing honest cattle-men—as well as the dishonest ones—to be involved in constant trouble. There were no fences, and the various owners experienced much irritation in the attempt to keep their herds separated. Finally, in the spring of 1880, a meeting was held at Caldwell, Kans., at which time an organization of cattle-men was formed. During the next few years this organization worked effectively as an aid to the settlement of disputes and the fixing of boundaries. But many annoyances still persisted. They reached a climax when the Department of the Interior—which handled Indian affairs—protested against the white man's use of Indian lands. While the government was debating about what should be done with the ranchers, the cattle-men themselves were not idle. They decided to form their loose organization into a compact association, and to secure from the Cherokee nation a lease of the Outlet. This plan was finally accomplished. On May 19, 1883, Chief Bushyhead, of the Cherokees, signed the contract giving to the Association a lease of the "Strip" for five years for the sum of \$100,000 a year.



Chas. H. Eldred,
Executive Secretary of the
Cherokee Strip
Live Stock Association.

Character of the Organization

The organization thus established was known as "The Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association." All

persons or companies occupying a range in the Outlet who agreed to pay the assessments were allowed to become members of the association. In October, 1883, the lease went into effect and the first payment was made. The Cherokees had asked that it be paid in silver, and the treasurer of the organization had to take \$50,000 in silver all the way from Caldwell to Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital. That must have been an exciting trip; as it was certainly a dangerous one.

Surveys, Ranches and Brands

The Cherokee Live Stock Association was a most unusual concern. It had no authority behind it except the consent of its members, but for seven years it played a vital part in the development of Indian territory. The affairs of the Association moved with remarkable smoothness. The lands of the Outlet were surveyed and the boundaries of each range fixed. Every ranch adopted a certain sign, or brand, with which its cattle were marked and easily distinguished. The different brands became so numerous that "brand books" had to be published. They are curious little volumes, filled with hundreds of strange signs and symbols which have no meaning to any except those who once "rode the ranges." The grazing territory was divided among a little more than one hundred individuals and firms, but the number indirectly connected with the organization was many times that. Many members of the Association were men of unusual ability and influence. Their power made itself felt not only in the cattle industry, but in politics and the movements of big business concerns. (See Map 3.)

Cherokees Sell the "Outlet"

In 1888, at the end of the five-year period, the Association with great difficulty renewed its lease for another five years, this time having to pay \$200,000 a year. In spite of a seemingly promising future the cattle-men soon after were forced to see the breakdown of all their plans. After the opening of the Oklahoma lands, in 1889, the insistent clamor for the opening of western Oklahoma mounted swiftly. The determined home-seekers hurled a constant volley of attacks against the ranchers. Finally Congress appointed a Commission to buy the Cherokee land and pave the way for settlement. The Indians for a long time refused to sell, since the price offered them by the government was much smaller than that paid by the Live Stock Association. At last the Cherokees gave in when they were given to understand that they would lose their territory without any recompense whatever if they refused the government's offer. That blasted the last hope of the cattle-men. They were given a specified period of time for the removal of their herds, and by the spring of 1893 the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association had ceased to exist. In September of that year the "Outlet" was opened for settlement, and the huge ranges were divided into small sections of land upon which the eager "boomers" might establish their homes. But, though the reign of the cattle-men was short, they left their imprint upon the history of northwestern Oklahoma.

CHAPTER X

"OKLAHOMA BOOMERS"

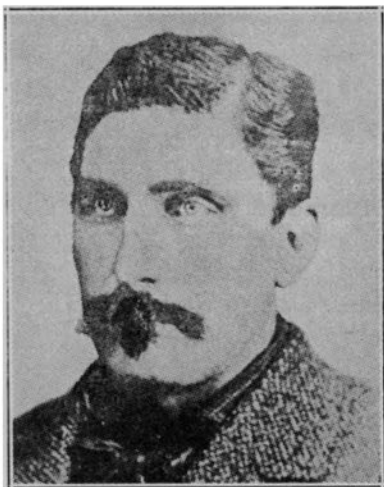
Why White Men Wanted Oklahoma

As the advancing army of frontiersmen pushed its way across the Mississippi river and settled the great central portion of our country, the region which is now Oklahoma was left isolated and almost untouched by the white man's influence. Then, when the available lands in surrounding states were all taken, adventurous settlers began turning their eyes to the beautiful Indian territory. There they saw abundant natural resources, fertile fields, a mild and healthful climate—all unpopulated except for a few cattlemen and the scattered Indian bands. Small wonder that they thought: "Why should the cattle-men be allowed in the Indian country when other settlers and homeseekers are kept out? Why should the Indians be permitted to control so much more land than they either need or use?"

In the national capital a prominent Indian, Elias C. Boudinot—son of the Elias Boudinot who had favored the Cherokee removal half a century earlier—advocated opening part of the Indian territory for white settlement. As a result of Boudinot's agitation there quickly spread a mounting enthusiasm about the unopened region. Thousands of people determined to take the matter into their own hands and to become "squatters" on the land. They refused to be daunted by the restriction of the government or the opposition of the Indians who were angered at the idea of giving up any of their land. These men were called "boomers" because they insisted on settling the Oklahoma lands before they were formally opened.

Work of Payne

The "boomer" movement centered in one man, Captain David L. Payne. He was a picturesque figure—tall, dark, gaunt, accustomed to life in the rough—a typical westerner. He had tried his hand at being many things: a soldier of the Civil War, Indian fighter, traveler in the West, postmaster, member of the Kansas legislature, and finally, doorkeeper of the House of Representatives in Washington. It was during his stay in the Capital that he came into contact with Boudinot and became interested in the Oklahoma question.



DAVID L. PAYNE,

Father of "Oklahoma Boomers."

When once Payne's enthusiasm was aroused he let no grass grow under his feet. Early in 1880 he left Washington for the West. From that time until his death in December, 1884, he was the moving spirit among the "boomers." He spent those years in one constant succession of attempts to lead colonies of settlers into Oklahoma. The goal of the homeseekers was that rich region just west of the Five Civilized Tribes, a large area which had

never been assigned to Indians and which remained almost totally uninhabited.

From border towns on the North and from points along the Texas line Payne led groups of settlers. Every time he entered the territory he was stopped and expelled. Several times he was arrested by soldiers and thrown into jail. After repeatedly being seized and driven out of the country the United States federal court gave the decision that Payne could not be held for conspiracy to violate the United States laws. Each of the colonies he organized was broken up and forcibly ejected.

Boomers Not Discouraged

But the eager boomers were not discouraged, and every rebuff only added to their determination to win the desired end. Payne and his followers started a newspaper, "The Oklahoma War Chief," which they devoted entirely to propaganda concerning their course. Using it as their tool they bitterly denounced the cattlemen who had appropriated most of the western section of the state for their own use. Such fiery language as the following: ".....the public lands thus filched from the people by the cattle kings.....and empires of the public lands fenced by these monopolists" appeared in their paper.

Following the sudden death of Payne the "boomer" movement continued under his friend and associate, Captain Couch. He got together a large band of boomers who stubbornly resisted expulsion. Finally they gave way when 600 troops were sent to

oust them. This was the last attempt to settle Oklahoma without the approval of the government.

At about the time of the failure of this last colony a bill favoring the opening of the Indian territory was introduced into Congress. Less than four years later the bill was passed and resulted in the first opening in April, 1889. Payne and his followers had not been able to fulfill their desire as promptly as they wished, but they set the spark which finally burst into a sweeping flame. They have been called the "Fathers of Oklahoma." (See "First Opening, 1889," Map 2.)

CHAPTER XI

A CATTLE RANCH IN THE "STRIP"

Ranches and Cow-Boys

After the members of the Cherokee Live Stock Association had leased the unoccupied lands of the Cherokee Outlet the ranchers definitely established themselves in northwestern Oklahoma. That region was cut up into great ranches, some of them including many thousands of acres. (See Map 3.) The cattlemen usually lived with their families in large and comfortable houses located somewhere near the center of their ranches. Scattered about the ranch were the cabins of the cow-boys who took charge of the herds. The cowboy is a familiar figure to every American. He lived in a world of freedom, of space, of activity. Day after day he rode swiftly across the prairies, seemingly unmoved by the forces of nature which bind less adventurous men.

The Round-ups

The activities of life on the western ranches usually followed a certain routine during most of the year; but the occasion of a "round-up" provided real excitement. Round ups took place in the fall and spring, and served three purposes. They offered an opportunity for estimating the size of the herd, and for getting some cattle ready for shipping or driving to market, and for marking or branding the cattle with the sign of the ranch to which they belonged. The cow-boys looked forward eagerly to the "round-up."

Striking figures they were, with bronzed, ruddy faces, brilliant bandanas, their flannel shirts open at the neck. Around their waists they wore wide cartridge

belts, with a brace of handsome six-shooters in fancy leather holsters. Flapping Angora-skin chaps almost hid their leather trousers and suggested the "wild and woolly" west. Bright-colored embroideries ornamented their boots, and glittering spurs added a further picturesque touch.

Very early on the morning of the "round-up" everything at the ranch began to buzz with excitement. After breakfast the cow-boys rode away over the "range" to find their herds. Owners of neighboring ranches, with their entire families crowded into buckboards and rattled up to the center of interest. And from the surrounding country other cow-boys came to participate in the day's activities. With much shouting, whistling, and cracking of whips the cattle were brought in and driven together to the designated "corral." When all were assembled the herds of the various ranches numbered thousands of head. Then the visiting cow-boys joined those who had brought the cattle together. All the riders were supplied with high-spirited horses, and from the horns of their saddles dangled the lassos which every cow-boy was skilled in using. This occasion aroused the greatest enthusiasm of all who took part in it.

Lassoing and Branding

The signal to begin acted upon the riders like the pop of a gun. Off they dashed, loosing their lassos and whirling along like a hurricane. Imagine the scene; cow-boys with hair flying, bandanas flapping, spurs gleaming in the sun-light; plunging ponies which responded instantaneously to every motion of their riders: the whizzing of the lassos as they hissed through the air and snapped with a crack about the horns of the

steers; the lunging and the rearing of the frightened, angry cattle which made desperate attempts to evade the circling lassos; an animated throng of onlookers, with much shouting, laughing, and cheering from all; and overhead the calm blue of the Indian-summer sky. As each steer went down a cow-boy leaped from his horse and tied the animal's feet. Then the "branding wagon" followed and completed the task of marking all the cattle with the sign of the ranch, whether it be "Bar Q," "P Diamond," or "Cross T," etc..

At noon a "chuck wagon" filled with pots of steaming coffee and an abundance of good things to eat



"Chuck Wagon" on a Cattle Ranch.

was driven out from the "chuck-house." A gala company gathered around. The open hand of good-fellowship was extended to all. The cow-boys chided each other with good-natured raillery, and compared the

number of steers which each had thrown, while the ranch owner was interested chiefly in determining the size of his herd.

Last of Cow-Boys and Ranches

On the fertile Oklahoma plains the ranching business proved immensely profitable, and many owners amassed large fortunes. Those were colorful days in the Cherokee Outlet. But they were doomed to be few, for the onward pressing tide of settlers looked bitterly at the cattle-men who controlled such a large and rich territory. In order to prolong their days of special privileges and rich returns the "Association" spent huge sums of money to bribe congressmen and politicians to favor them. But after the first opening of the Oklahoma Lands, in 1889, the agitation for further openings constantly mounted in intensity until the great army of home-seekers could no longer be suppressed. With the opening of the Cherokee Outlet, in 1893, the great cattle ranches became a thing of the past.

"The last cow-boy rides into the distance
To hobble his bronco close to the sky
And build a fire and with head on his saddle
Sing softly while lonely hours go by."

Second Period, 1893 - 1907

CHAPTER XII

HOW OKLAHOMA AND WOODS COUNTY CAME TO BE A PART OF THE UNITED STATES

Note: All the places mentioned in this story can be found on Map 1.

Locating Woods County on the Map

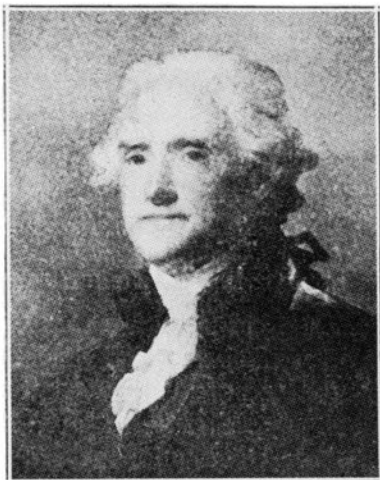
To understand this story, children, you must have before you a map of North America. (See Map 1.) Find the Mississippi river. Do you see that there are three large rivers that flow into it from the West? The one farthest north is the Missouri; the middle one is the Arkansas and the one farthest south is the Red. All of these rivers rise in the Rocky Mountains. Now all of that vast country bounded on the North by Canada, on the east by the Mississippi river, on the west by the Rocky Mountains, and on the south by the Red river, was once called Louisiana, and for a long, long time belonged to France. The four rivers just named drain all of it. It is 1,300 miles long north and south, and has an average width of 1,000 miles east and west. Can you locate Oklahoma? It lies mostly between the Arkansas and the Red rivers and about midway between the Mississippi and the Rockies. The map even shows the Cimarron and Salt Fork. So you can easily locate Woods county.

French Names

Having located Louisiana, Oklahoma and Woods county on your map of North America, let us see how we got some of those names. About 200 years after Columbus discovered America and about 240 years

ago, France had a powerful king, Louis XIV. He was deeply interested in America and he wished to get possession of as much of it as possible. He therefore sent out one of the greatest explorers of all times, Robert de La Salle to discover the mountains, the vast forests, the lakes and the rivers of this new continent and to take possession of all the lands he explored in the name of France. La Salle came up the St. Lawrence river, followed the Great Lakes to the southern end of Lake Michigan, then crossed to the Mississippi river and was the first white man to float down that mighty stream to the Gulf of Mexico. He then proclaimed that all the country drained by the great river should belong to France and he called the country Louisiana after the French king, Louis XIV.

Then the French made a settlement at the mouth of the Missouri and called this St. Louis after the French king too. They also made a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi and called it New Orleans after the royal family of France. They made still another settlement near the mouth of the Red river which they called Natchez. From these settlements or trad-



THOMAS JEFFERSON,
Who bought Louisiana, which included Oklahoma, from France, in 1803.

ing posts, the French hunters and trappers followed the rivers, traveling far into the country, some coming even as far as the Cimarron and the Salt Fork,—that is, to our own Woods County. You have already been told about these French Trappers in Chapter I.

Three Owners of Louisiana

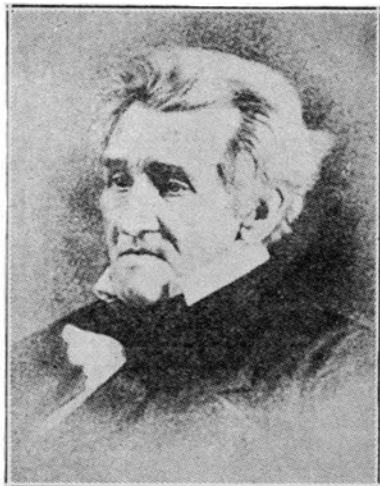
After the French had owned Louisiana for almost 100 years, England and France had a great war; France was defeated and had to give all of Canada to England and all of Louisiana to Spain. This made Spain owner of everything west of the Mississippi and south to South America. She owned most of that too. But Spain did not get to keep Louisiana long for in just 40 years France, under the great Napoleon, took Louisiana back and then sold it to the United States in 1803, for \$15,000,000. That is how this land in Woods county became a part of the United States.

Of course no one knew in 1803 what this country was like and no one cared very much, for everybody thought it would be a long, long time before white settlers would want to come so far into the wilderness among the savage Indians.

How We Became "Indian Territory"

But settlers came fast into the new country around New Orleans so that the state of Louisiana was admitted into the Union in 1812, and in 1819, all of the country between Missouri on the north and Louisiana and Texas on the south and west was formed into the territory of Arkansas, so we became a part of Arkansas. Soon another change came because the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians who were then living east of the Mississippi river were being moved out west to some

good uninhabited country full of game that could be given to them for a permanent home. The Indians chose their lands in the western part of Arkansas Territory, and so this was cut off from Arkansas and was called the Indian Territory. Our part of the Territory was given to the Cherokees for a hunting ground and was called the Cherokee Outlet. This was arranged in 1828, just 100 years ago, and the government of the United States solemnly promised the Cherokees that they might always live here and this land would never be included in any white man's state.



ANDREW JACKSON,

Who was mostly responsible for moving the Indians to Oklahoma.

Why the White Men Came

But, alas! the government was incapable of enforcing its agreements. The white men would not keep out of a country so rich and beautiful, with streams of settlers filling Kansas on the north, Texas on the south and Colorado on the west. So in 1890, after the first opening to white settlers much of old Indian Territory was organized into Oklahoma Territory and compelled to submit to white men's government.

An educated Indian suggested the name Oklahoma, because it meant the Land of the Red Men. Then in 1893, this part of the country, the Cherokee Outlet, or Cherokee Strip, was purchased from the Indians for \$8,300,000 and was added to Oklahoma Territory. So you see, the United States had to buy our County twice. The next change came on the 16th day of September, 1893, when this country was opened for white settlers. We will next tell the story of "The Great Race."

CHAPTER XIII

"THE GREAT RACE"*History of the Opening*

In April, 1889, the first Oklahoma Lands were offered for white settlement. Following the enthusiasm aroused by that action, it was only a question of time until all the remainder of the Indian lands would be thrown open. For a long time the Cherokee nation refused to sell the lands of the Cherokee Outlet to the Federal government, but in March, 1893, Congress bought that region for the sum of about eight and a half million dollars. In August, 1893 a proclamation was issued which declared that the "Outlet" would be opened at noon on September sixteenth. Thus the way was prepared for the greatest race in American history, and probably in the history of the earth.

The Opening

As the time for the opening approached a motley, surging army of home-seekers assembled and camped all along the margin of the Cherokee Outlet on each side. A veritable melting pot of humanity composed that line. Farmers, laborers, lawyers, ministers, business men, boomers, adventurers, prospectors, gamblers, ex-convicts, plainsmen, men with banished hopes, and men with high enthusiasm—all met and mingled on a plane of equality. They had traveled to the scene of the race in a varied array of conveyances: carriages, buck-boards, buggies, prairie schooners, covered wagons, carts and ox-carts, on horseback, on mules, on bicycles, even on foot. None dared cross the border ahead of time, for by so doing he would forfeit his right to a claim. Just across the line troops of the

United States Cavalry rode slowly back and forth, ever present sentinels to remind the excited multitude of the necessity for order.

Thousands Seek Homes

The morning of September sixteenth dawned cool and calm after the sweltering heat of summer. Nothing about the serene blue of the sky reflected the dizzy,



The Race for Claims.

agitated anticipation of those who waited—waited for the signal that should send them scuttling across the prairies in a mad chase for homes. Very early in the morning camps were broken, wagons loaded, last preparations made, everything put in readiness for the race. Tense with excitement the orderly mob of humanity

formed itself into a human wall along the boundary of the coveted region. Before them stretched a gently rolling plain scorched by the glare of the summer sun—a land of tall grasses, few trees, and sweeping winds. To the eager throng of waiters it appeared a promised land indeed. Their spirits beat high with hope. Before them lay their chance, the chance of a lifetime!

Race Is Heated

As the sun swung high into the heavens and the hour of twelve drew near many members of the waiting multitude almost forgot to breathe in the intensity of their emotion and expectation. Then, suddenly, the hour was at hand. With deliberate slowness the soldiers raised their bugles to their lips while thousands of eyes riveted upon their movements. With a shock it came, the long awaited signal; a screech of trumpets, a roar of cannon, a deafening sound of carbines along the line—and the race was on! The sound was not heard before the seething horde bolted across the border with all the raging impetus of churning flood waters suddenly released.

Onward the people dashed, away—away! Down went the grasses beneath the furious pounding of horses' hoofs. Clouds of dust swirled through the air. Protesting carriage and wagon wheels creaked under the strain put upon them by frantic drivers. Riders on horse-back whizzed along on the wings of the wind. At several points railroads had pushed their lines into the Cherokee Outlet, and many claim-seekers made the memorable trip on the train. On the top of the coaches they sat, they hung on to the steps, leaned out of the windows, filled the cars until hardly breathing space was left. Madly the race progressed, each participant trying to out-distance his neighbors. The heat of the

mid-day sun caused many to suffer from thirst. Some stopped to drink from muddy streams, others tore on without thought of physical discomfort.

The "Land of Promise" Reached

Gradually the advancing line thinned out. As each home-seeker reached an unclaimed section of land he stopped and drove a stake with a bit of rag attached. The rag fluttering in the breeze proclaimed to all on-comers that the location had been taken. On the town sites the new owners pitched their tents upon their re-



Alva, the day after the Opening

spective lots, and within a few hours many tented cities had sprung into existence. It is a strange and fascinating tale—this story of the race. In the morning a solitude and wilderness as it had been throughout all the ages; at noon a surging tide of eager, earnest, excited humanity; in the evening the land of many tented homes with thousands of camp fires sending up the incense of peace. Though they came in disorder like the rout of a defeated army their conquest was more complete and their mastery more lasting than that of the legions of Alexander, Caesar, or Napoleon.

More than a hundred thousand people poured

across the border into the Cherokee Outlet that day. It was a majestic spectacle of human migration and human enterprise. The country was populated and cities established in a few hours' time. Through that first long night the weary but satisfied claim-seekers waited alone upon the prairies to which they had come to make their homes. Perhaps they heard in the far distance the weird howl of a coyote. Perhaps they saw spectral figures of painted Indian warriors riding—gliding over the rolling plains. But with the coming of the morning those spectres from the past vanished forever. The white men had come to possess the land, to transform a wilderness into a new citadel of civilization.



Indians and Buffalo — Occupants of Woods Co., 50 years ago

CHAPTER XIV

HOW WOODS COUNTY GOT ITS NAME AND
BOUNDARIES*"M" County at First*

When the "Strip" was opened the country had already been surveyed and divided into counties, but no names had been selected for these counties. To identify them they were just lettered and our county was given the letter "M," so we were known as "M" County until a permanent name could be officially chosen. Our officials accepted the plan that was generally followed, to let the people themselves choose the name. So it was agreed that in the fall election of 1894 each political party was to suggest a name for the people to vote upon. The Republicans said that if they were successful the county would be named "Flynn" after Oklahoma's Territorial Representative in Congress who had done so much to secure the opening of the Cherokee Strip for settlement. The Democrats said that if they were elected the county would be named "Banner," and the Populists said that if they were successful the county should be named "Wood" after a noted Kansas pioneer, Colonel Sam. N. Wood, who was greatly admired and had many friends in the county. As the Populists carried the election, the name they suggested was chosen. By a clerical error, the name was recorded as "Woods" instead of "Wood."

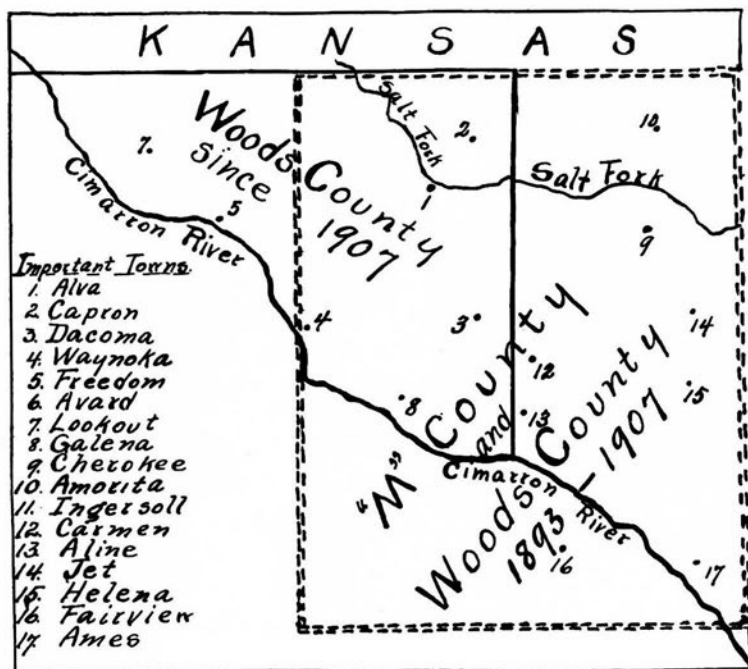
First Boundaries of Woods County

But the county did not then have its present boundaries. (See Map 4.) It then included all of the present counties of Major and Alfalfa. It was 48 miles wide and 58 miles long, extending entirely across the



COL. SAM N. WOOD.

old "Strip," and contained 2,784 square miles. Its southwest corner was cut by the North Canadian river; in the southeast part of the county were Fairview and Ames, and in the northeast were Cherokee and Amorita. It was so large that the people of the Territory generally referred to our county as "The Empire of Woods." But it did not contain the northwestern portion of our present county in which is located Lookout and Freedom. This was added and Major and Alfalfa counties taken away when the State Constitution was written and Oklahoma was made a State in 1907. The full story will be told in Chapter 19.



Map 4. "M" County and Woods County

CHAPTER XV

THE OKLAHOMA PIONEERS

Character of Pioneers

From every state in the Union came the Oklahoma pioneers, but in largest numbers from Missouri, Kansas and Texas. They were attracted to the Indian Territory by the advantages it offered: plenty of room, cheap land, fertile soil, mild climate. Some were adventurers, pure and simple. They thought of the new country as a place abounding in excitement, a land where they might live without working or where they might work dishonestly without being discovered. But the great majority of the early settlers were actuated by a sincere desire to establish homes for themselves and their families. Oklahoma represented to them a golden opportunity for the fulfillment of their dreams.

At each of the land openings, thousands of new home-seekers thronged into the state. They came sometimes alone, and sometimes with their entire families and all their possessions crowded into a buggy or prairie schooner. Those who were trained for a profession or who had enough money to establish a business concern settled in the small towns which had seemed to spring up almost over night, suddenly appearing like small dots across all the face of the solitary prairie. The others, a much larger number, sought out claims where they could make their living from the soil. Most of these men—and they were the real Oklahoma pioneers—possessed no more than the bare necessities of life. Life meant work or starve.

Hardships of Pioneers

The early months of the new claims were times of

genuine hardship. The first task was the making of homes, with scant materials, no money and little help. Then came the digging of wells, the building of a barn for the livestock, the "breaking" of the prairie for planting, and the sowing of the seed. There were no labor saving devices of any kind, nothing to depend upon except hard physical work. Many lived long distances from any railroad and were virtually cut off from all communication with the outside world. This isolation required them to meet all emergencies and to develop a very unusual quality of self reliance.

In times of illness or accident it was often impossible to procure the aid of a physician. When sudden floods or fire ravaged their homes these sturdy men could only stand by while the fruit of their hard labor was reduced to nothing before their eyes. But disappointment never meant "Give up;" rather it meant, "Begin again!"

The Oklahoma pioneers did not stop with the building of their homes. As soon as they had provided shelter for themselves and planted their first crops they turned their energy and enthusiasm toward community organization. With dauntless spirit they set about to provide recreation and instruction for their children.

In Woods county there were few families during the first decade following the "Opening," who were not readers of "The Alva Pioneer," or "The Alva Courier," county newspapers which circulated widely, and rapidly bound the inhabitants into closer kinship.

Schools and Churches

Most important was the attention they devoted to the establishment of those two institutions, which form the basis of modern civilization and progress—the

school and the church. Immediately after the opening of the great Cherokee Strip little schools were constructed at regular intervals all over its great expanse, on land which had been set aside by the national government for that purpose. Within a few years these first, rude buildings gave way everywhere to larger ones with good equipment. And it is with increasing admiration for the makers of Oklahoma that we learn of the rapid building of churches throughout the state. Reliable authorities say that after the "Opening of the Strip" some kind of church had been erected in each community in that large territory, in order that on Thanksgiving Day the people might gather and give praise to the Great Father of Mankind who is the giver of all good and perfect gifts. Like the Pilgrims of old, the early settlers in the Cherokee Outlet must have given thanks, on their first Thanksgiving in the new country, for Oklahoma, "fairest daughter of the west."

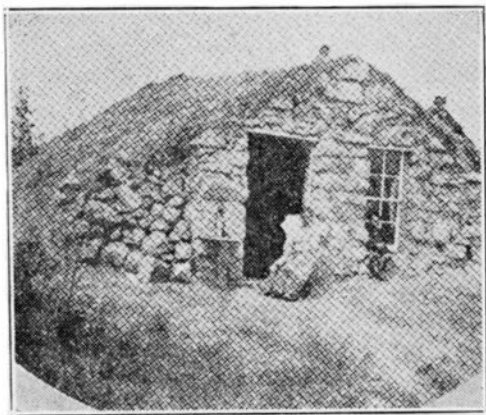
CHAPTER XVI

EARLY WOODS COUNTY HOMES

Nothing but Land

Travelers who visit Oklahoma are almost invariably impressed with the beautiful homes which they see in our wonderful state. But Oklahoma has not long been a land of beautiful homes! Before 1889 the tepees of the Indians were the only habitations to be found. So rapidly have we progressed that our modern communities bear no traces of those early days.

When the various sections of Oklahoma were thrown open for settlement the eager homeseekers poured into an absolutely undeveloped country. Nothing had been prepared for them in advance. Practically all the settlers were poor and with no belongings except their meagre clothing and household necessities. But they had possessions far more important than mere wealth; they had courage, ambition, determination, persistence. By the toil of their hands alone, they were forced to live, and without the slightest hesitation they set about to fulfill their dreams.



Pioneer Home in Woods County

Building the Dug-Out

The first task of every settler who took a claim was to build a house. He had to use the material at hand, and often could secure no help except from the members of his family. The types of houses used most extensively must be such as could be made quickly and with small expense. The "dug-out" was perhaps the most common type. These were built wherever a hillside made possible a rude cave dug in the side large enough for one room. Then the front was extended by the use of logs or stones. Poles stretched across the top and covered with willows or grasses and then with a thick layer of sod or dirt, formed the roof. Small windows permitted the entrance of light and air. A door at the front end, and a chimney at the other end, completed the structure.

Different Types of Houses

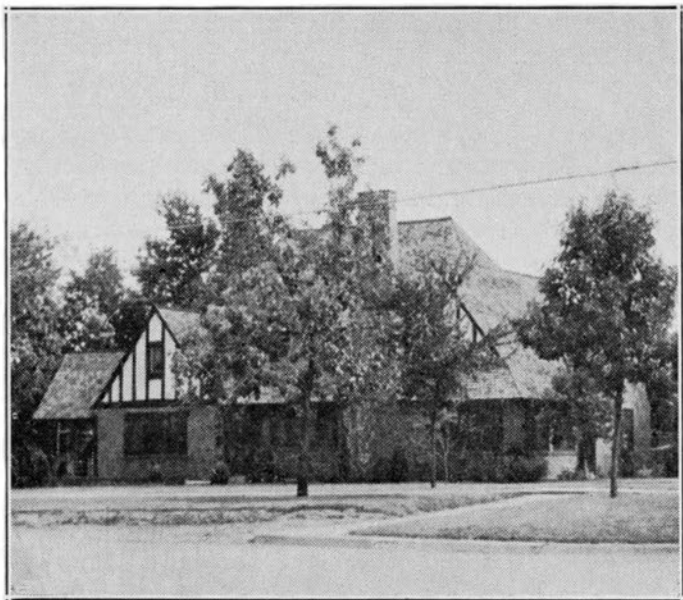
Some dug-outs had rude log shanties in front, making a habitation of two rooms. Some families used a tent in summer, and a cave-like dwelling in winter, for their home. Another common type of house was made of sod. Poles composed the frame and the spaces were filled in with large sod blocks. The walls, usually six or seven feet high, had small windows and narrow doors framed with any available lumber. Like the dug-out, the sod house usually had a roof of willows, grass, or sod and an earthen floor. Such homes were sometimes surprisingly comfortable. In places where timber abounded the farmers erected small log cabins similar to those used by the first Americans in Plymouth. In other sections building stones could be secured, and that material made possible a better home.

The plans of all the first Oklahoma homes were

essentially the same. Each was small and as simple as possible.

Household Furniture

The furnishings of pioneer homes were as crude as the buildings themselves. Few had money with which to buy, or space in which to keep, anything unnecessary. A stove, a table, a few stiff chairs, and a couple of bedsteads frequently constituted all the furniture. Every home also boasted a wash-stand—often found just outside the door—with a large pail of water, a tin dipper or gourd from which to drink, and a tin wash-basin. At best, these early houses were dark, crowded, and poorly ventilated. However, many



A Modern Home in Alva

families lived in them for several years quite happy and without complaint, meanwhile never losing sight of the home for which they hoped.

The Towns

The towns which sprang into existence with such unbelievable rapidity were at first nothing more than tented settlements, with some of the new citizens living in covered wagons or caves. But the Oklahoma pioneer did not rest until he had taken every possible stride toward his goal. Within a few years after the opening comfortable homes and adequate business places began to appear, and in a short time Oklahoma caught up with the much older neighbor states which surrounded her.

Woods County

Woods county settlers were no exception to the general rule. Several of these enterprising pioneers had previously arranged that on the very day of the opening their teams should begin hauling lumber from Kiowa, Kans., to Alva. Probably the first two-story frame building used for business purposes in Woods county was erected for the "Alva Pioneer" and stood where the Bell Hotel now stands in Alva. On the whole, improvements came slowly because the first five years were unusually dry, causing many of those who came on the 16th of September, 1893, to return temporarily to their former homes. Each succeeding spring found them in their frontier home, accompanied by their team, wagon, plow and harrow. By 1900 many good frame residences could be found all over the county. The enterprising, resourceful and courageous pioneer had at last won his victory.

CHAPTER XVII

SALOON DAYS IN THE TERRITORY

The saloon is an institution wholly unknown to all Oklahoma youth born since 1907, because one of the conditions imposed upon Oklahoma at the time of her admission to statehood was that she should abolish the saloon forever. Just before the closing, December, 1907, there were eight saloons in Alva, and at one time there were as many as thirteen.

Licenses

Each saloon in Alva paid an annual license of \$200 to the county and \$500 to the city. It seems incredible during the pioneer days when times were frequently so hard that most of the people had to skimp to the utmost in order to tide themselves over from one crop period to another, that during these same years a half dozen saloons could do such a business in Alva as would enable each to pay licenses amounting to \$700 per year. In each of the other towns of the county, Waynoka, Avard, Dacoma, Capron and Freedom there were additional saloons.

Location and Petitions

Just across the street north from the post office in Alva, stamped in the concrete sidewalk may still be found the number "444." Here for many years was located one of the largest and most prosperous saloons. It was called "Bill 444." On the corner just to the west was located "Red Top" another thriving saloon. The "Little Gem" was located just north of the Monfort building on the west side of the square. No saloon could be licensed unless the prospective saloon keeper could secure the signatures of 30 taxpayers living in the ward where the saloon was to be located. Always the

other residents got up a "remonstrance" and there was a "hearing" (sort of law suit) before the county commissioners. Each side was represented by an attorney. The saloon petitions, "remonstrance" and "hearing" often kept the town in a state of agitation for weeks.

Saloons Described

The Oklahoma saloons were never so attractive as those in many of the states, for here the territorial laws required that the interior of the saloon be as open to the view of the passer-by as any other business establishment. The drinkers and the "drunks" could therefore be observed by everyone. Often in connection with the Oklahoma saloons there were found lunch counters and pool tables.

Sometimes a barber shop would be located in a saloon. But there was the bartender with his large white apron, his highly colored shirt and tie, his extravagant jewelry, and his sleeves generally rolled to the elbows. The strong odor, ever floating out to the street, of wine, beer, rum, whiskey, alcohol and tobacco was always present. To those who had a strong appetite for liquor all this was as irresistible as are the fields of clover and Spanish needles to bees and butterflies. Behind the huge oak or walnut-stained bar, often two feet wide on top, and strewn with goblets and mugs, were kegs, barrels, jugs, and beautiful glass containers all supposed to be full of such drinks as would satisfy the most fastidious tastes. Often the walls and doorways were ornamented with large mirrors and highly suggestive pictures. Then, too, the horns of deer, elk and buffalo were exceedingly popular wall decorations to be located over the bar itself. While all this sounds attractive enough it was quite tame when compared

with the grand saloons of such cities as St. Louis, Kansas City and Chicago.

The Crime Record

The police records of Alva for the years 1905-6, and the years 1927-8 show the following interesting comparisons:

During the months of June, July, November and December of each of the former years, there averaged 54 "drunks," 18 fights and several indecencies not proper to mention. For these same months during the years 1927-28 there averaged 14 "drunks," four fights, and no arrests for the other offenses listed in former years. Apparently four-fifths of our crime was caused by the saloon.

The saloon was always abundantly supplied with chairs and benches for "lounging" so that it was always the most popular "loafing place" in town. For this reason it became the headquarters for small politicians and political caucuses. Many of the schemes for nominating and electing county and city officers were hatched in the rear of one of the six or eight saloons of Alva.

A policeman in Alva during the last three years of the "saloon period," says that almost every morning the sidewalks around the square required washing to cleanse them of the vomit of the "drunks." Nearly all of the old time citizens state that the language of the street was far more offensive during the saloon days than now. Though we still have some residents of Woods county who are unable to control their appetites for liquor, let us hope that the saloon may never return to disgrace our county.

CHAPTER XVIII

NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE TEACHERS' COLLEGE



James E. Ament
First President of
N. S. T. C.

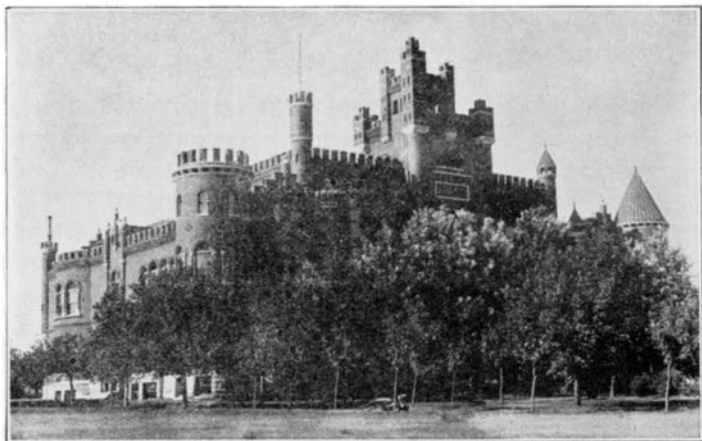
The Northwestern State Teachers' College is a true child of one of the most highly selected groups of people to be found anywhere within our nation. The pioneer is always an individual of parts, but the pioneers of northwestern Oklahoma were the most courageous and resourceful of all. Such a people must needs build an educational institution distinctive in character.

Alva was but a village when, in 1897, the second State Normal School of Oklahoma was located here. In August of that year the Board of Regents selected James E. Ament for the first President. On September 20th, school was begun in the Congregational church with the President and two assistants as a faculty. During the first year 166 students attended. But while the school had been officially located, the Legislature had made no appropriation for a building.

Without waiting for an appropriation by the state, the Board of Regents being encouraged and efficiently led by President Ament and ably supported by the citizens of Alva, undertook the construction of a building to cost \$110,000. In architectural grace and quality of workmanship, it was far in advance of any other school building in the southwest.

President Ament was the right man for the build-

ing of a pioneer college. He planned a big educational program and the people met his expectations. In 1909 the Science Hall and heating plant were erected; in 1918 the President's home; in 1919 the Wyatt



Administration Building Northwestern State Teachers' College
Gymnasium and in 1923 Herod Hall which included
the Auditorium.

The present faculty of forty compares favorably with those of the best institutions of the nation and the college student body of over eight hundred is not inferior to any other to be found in the state. Woods county is proud to have Northwestern located within its boundaries.

Third Period, 1907 - 1929

CHAPTER XIX

OKLAHOMA JOINS THE UNION

The Two Territories

Three years before the opening of the "Strip," all of the country now known as Oklahoma was organized by Congress into two Territories, the eastern half of which was to be called the Indian Territory, and the western half, the Territory of Oklahoma. An irregular line dividing the two territories followed the Arkansas river south from Kansas to Tulsa, then south to the Canadian, up the Canadian to a point thirty miles west of Norman, thence south to Texas. Most of the Indians were in the eastern half of Indian Territory. Here were the Osages, the Cherokees, the Creeks, the Choctaws and the Chickasaws. Only the Seminoles and the small scattered tribes of the plains Indians were included in the western half or the Territory of Oklahoma.

Thus for seventeen years, 1890-1907, Oklahoma was divided into two Territories. During this period, there was a great deal of discussion about whether each half should become a separate state or whether they should ask to be joined and make one state. The western half wanted single statehood, but the eastern half opposed the plan. The Indians who formed the larger population in the eastern half did not care for statehood at all, because that would mean that their tribal government must be given up; they would have to take individual allotments of land, would have to become citizens, and be governed by the laws of the state and nation. Rather than accept all these conditions

they preferred to remain as an Indian Territory.

The Sequoyah Proposal

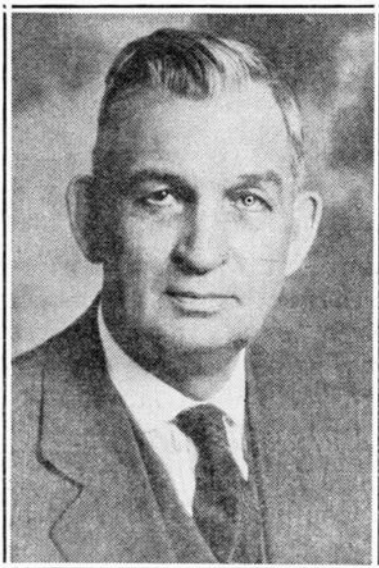
During the next three years after the opening of the "Strip," the United States passed several laws that took away the tribal governments from the Indians and made them subject to the laws of the Nation. After this, they saw that it was useless to fight statehood, so the Indian Territory held a great convention in Muskogee, in 1905, and petitioned Congress to admit them as a state separate from Oklahoma Territory. They wanted their state called Sequoyah in honor of the Cherokee Indian who invented the Cherokee alphabet.

Congress Favors Single Statehood

Wholly disregarding the request of the Indian Territory, the very same year of the Muskogee convention, Congress passed a bill uniting all of Oklahoma and providing for its admission as one state. In the same bill, however, was a provision that Arizona and New Mexico should be united and admitted into the Union as a single state. Because Congress quarreled over this last provision, the statehood bill did not become a law, so Oklahoma failed to get statehood at that time. The next year, 1906, Congress passed another bill providing for single statehood and authorizing the people of both Territories to form a Constitution, submit it to the people and permit them to say whether they did or did not want to come into the Union as one state.

The Constitutional Convention

The two Territories were now thrilled with excitement. Every one knew that far reaching changes must be made at once, and all prophesied a glorious future for the new state. Indian Territory and Okla-



DR. G. N. BILBY

homa Territory were each to have 55 delegates in the Constitutional Convention which was to meet in Guthrie, the newly selected capital. Because of the great size and population of Woods County, it had four delegates. Since it had already been rumored that Woods County might be divided, this became the main issue in the election of delegates.

To help write the Constitution of our new state

was not only a distinguished honor but offered an opportunity for a great service. The delegates selected from Woods County were Rev. George Wood of Cherokee; J. C. Major of Fairview; D. G. Harned of Aline and Dr. George N. Bilby of Alva. All were instructed to oppose a division of the county.

How This County Was Divided

It soon appeared, however, that Wood and Major had changed their minds and were favoring a resolution to cut off what is now Alfalfa and Major counties. Although the resolution to divide the county was passed by the convention Dr. Bilby steadfastly fought for a united county. He served on some of the most important committees of the convention and proved him-

self one of its most efficient members. Alfalfa county was named for William H. (Alfalfa) Murray, the President of the Constitutional Convention and Major county was named for J. C. Major. The new



Woods County Court House

county of Woods was formed with its present boundaries, leaving Alva as the county seat. Forty-five per cent of the assessed valuation of the old county now went to Alfalfa county; twenty-six per cent went to Major and twenty-nine per cent to Woods county.

The Statehood Proclamation

A new day had dawned for Oklahoma. In the election that followed the Constitutional Convention, the vote for the Constitution and for a united statehood was carried overwhelmingly. So at 10 o'clock A. M., November 16th, 1907, President Roosevelt issued the proclamation admitting all of Oklahoma as the 46th state of the Union. As by magic all the church bells of Oklahoma were set ringing; a thousand steam whistles filled the state with their shrill noise, and every where the people began a joyous celebration.

At the time of her admission she already had a population of 1,400,000 of which 116,000 were Indians. It is said that our state had four times as much population as had any other state when received into the Union. Only 104 years before, Jefferson had purchased from France the Louisiana country from which we had now carved 13 states, the last of which was Oklahoma.

CHAPTER XX

GEOGRAPHY OF WOODS COUNTY

Of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, Woods ranks eleventh in size and 55th in population. It is triangular in shape, its northern and eastern boundaries being straight lines, and its south-western being the Cimarron river. The distance by nearest roads following section lines, from the northwest to the southeast corner of the county is eighty-nine miles. The elevation of the county varies approximately 500 feet, with an elevation of 1350 feet at Alva and nearly 1900 feet at the north-west corner of the county. It is located in the northern part of the state being bounded by Barber and Comanche counties, Kansas, on the north and its county seat, Alva, is 243 miles from New Mexico on the west and 227 miles from Missouri and Arkansas on the east. Its longitude is 99 degrees west, and latitude 36 degrees, 50 minutes, north. It is bounded on the east, south and west by Alfalfa, Major, Woodward and Harper counties, with U. S. Highway 64 leading directly to Alfalfa and Harper counties and State Highway 15 leading to Woodward and Major counties. Everyone should know that Alva is located in Township 27, Range 14. Then, by figuring six miles north or south for another township and six miles east or west for another Range all locations in Woods county can easily be found.

One of the most essential assets of any progressive and prosperous country is a healthy, invigorating climate. Indeed it is claimed by many authorities that inheritance, social environment and climate are the three most powerful factors in determining human destiny. If this be true the people of Woods county

are richly blessed for, first, they have come from the best stock of America; second, the moral, religious and educational (social) conditions are among the best in the state, and third, the climate is classed with the most invigorating and salubrious in the entire country. Writers on climatology give this section of the country a very high rating. Climate makes more people live with robust health and succeed in business than almost any other factor.

Topography and Drainage

The prevailing winds are from the south and southwest but very many days each year they come from the north and northwest. The heavy dashing short rains come from these directions, while the slow, drizzling rains that last for several days come from the



Combine in Woods County Wheat Field

east. The average rainfall for the last 20 years has been between 28 and 30 inches, four-fifths of which falls between the first of April and the last of October. On an average the sun shines 255 days of the year. The average temperature is 35 in December and January, 60

in April and October, '75 in June and September, and 80 in July and August. The first killing frosts come about the 25th of October and the last about the 6th of April. Hail is most prevalent during the months of May and June.

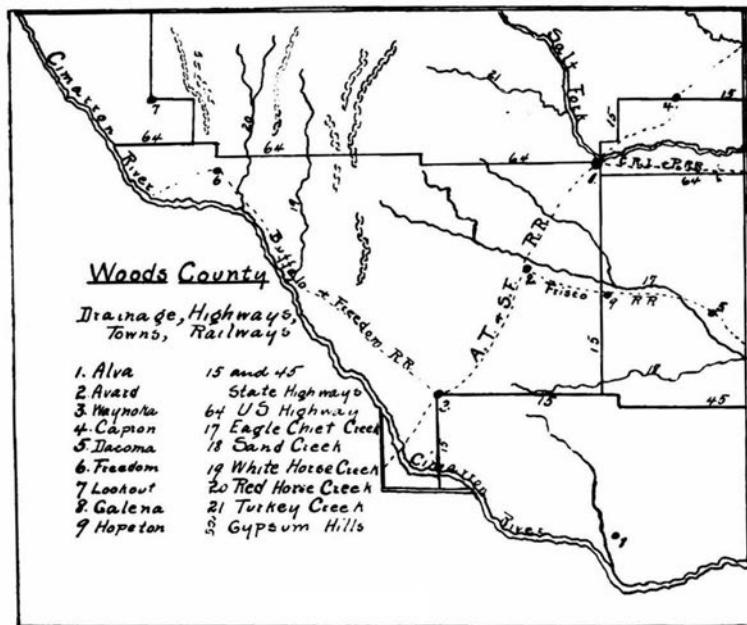
Crops and Soils

The county has an area of 803,000 acres. Of this amount, 725,000 acres were included in farms in 1925 and each farm averaged 350 acres. More than 300,000 acres were actually cultivated, whereas there were about 400,000 acres of pasture land. The various crop acreages were oats, 8,000 acres; hay, 11,000 acres; corn, 22,000 acres; sorghum, 58,000 acres and wheat, 195,000 acres. All of this farm land had an average value according to the U. S. census of 1925 of about \$30 per acre. The prevailing soils may be described as gypsum clay in the northwest third of the county; as sandy in the south and southeast third, and clay loam in the northeast third. In this last section is grown most of the wheat. The northwest third is used mostly for pasturage. The southeast third including the whole valley of the Cimarron is especially adapted to the production of fruits and vegetables.

Railroads and Towns

One of the main lines of the Santa Fe railroad from Chicago and Kansas City to California crosses the county from the northeast to the southwest. On this is located Capron, Alva, Avard and Waynoka. Branching off the main line at Waynoka, the Santa Fe has a line running up the Cimarron valley to Buffalo. Freedom is the principal town on this road. The Frisco coming from Enid enters the county from the east and extends as far as Avard. On this road the most impor-

tant town is Dacoma. The Rock Island enters the county from the east and terminates at Alva.



Map 5

CHAPTER XXI

THE PEOPLE OF WOODS COUNTY

In the previous chapter is found a discussion of the most important geographic elements that influence the lives of the people. It was there shown that the three things that explain why we are what we are more than all else are our ancestors, our neighbors, and our climate. We therefore want to tell you about the people of Woods county in this chapter.

Woods County People Compared

Children and young people who have always lived in this part of Oklahoma and have not traveled exten-



WILEY MORSE
Healthiest Boy in
Oklahoma, 1928.

sively, quite naturally suppose that the people everywhere in the U. S. are very much like us. This is not true. In the United States there are 125 foreign-born for every 1,000 people, but in Woods county there are only 40 for each 1,000. In the United States there are 100 negroes for every 1,000 people, and in Oklahoma there are 70 for each 1,000, but in Woods county there are none. In the United States there are 3 Indians for every 1,000, and in Oklahoma there are 30 Indians for every 1,000, but Woods county has none. In some sections such as New York, California, Washington and Oregon there are from 5 to 20 Japanese and Chinese for every 1,000, but Woods county has none. You now see how the people of Woods county differ from those of

other parts of the United States do you not? Don't you think you prefer our people?

Although we love all of America and especially Oklahoma, we have peculiar reasons for being partial to the particular part of the state in which Woods county is located. We have a higher altitude and



JESSE J. DUNN
Ex-Chief Justice of
Oklahoma Supreme
Court. One of our
most noted citizens.

therefore a dryer, colder and more wholesome atmosphere. This means that we can do more work and live better than other folks. Do you think it is just an accident that seven of the nine boys and girls who have won the state-wide health contests, and all of the twelve boys who have won the state stock-judging contests have come from the northwest half of the state? Four of these honor people have come from our own Woods county. Remember this, that Woods county's climate is one of its chief assets.

Elements of Progress

There are about 16,000 people in Woods county, and one-half of these live in the towns of Alva, Wynoka, Dacoma, Freedom, Capron and Hopeton. The other half of our people are farmers who generally own their farms. If we compare the farmers of Woods county with those of the rest of the state our per cent of farm-owners is almost twice as large. We wish we were able to make just as strong a statement about the farm improvements as we have about the farm ownership but we cannot. Perhaps our meager improvements in many cases are due to the fact that the county is yet

new. The boys and girls now in school must learn how to beautify their homes with painted buildings, flowers, shrubbery and trees. Especially promising in this respect are the numerous and thriving social, educational and vocational organizations, such as the 4-H Clubs, Home-makers Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, Poultry Associations, Women's Clubs, Kiwanis and Rotary. These are indicative of the wide awake, intelligent, moral and progressive character of the Woods county citizenship.

The Schools and Churches

In the kind of schools and the number of boys and girls who go through the grade schools, the high schools and the College, our county ranks among the very highest in the state. While we have no statistics on which to base any statements about the moral and religious character of our people, it is the opinion of persons of state-wide and nationwide acquaintance that the citizens of Woods county compare favorably in these respects with the best sections of the whole nation.

Most of the Christian churches of the United States have strong organizations here. Probably the most numerous in membership are the Catholic, Meth-



FRIENDS CHURCH
First Church in Alva. (Congregational.)

odist-Episcopal, Baptist, Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Friends, and United Brethren. These wield an influence for progress scarcely second to that of the schools. What an honor it would be if we could say that there are no criminals, no illiterates, and no helpless poor in our county. If all the children now in school learn how to live clean, moral, healthy and industrious lives, this hope may soon come true. With the fine type of citizenship now in Woods county, let us all "boost" for such an ideal condition and thus make our County and ourselves the pride of the state and the nation.

CHAPTER XXII

HISTORY OF ALVA

While half of the people of Woods county live in the towns, only about one-fifth of the wealth is found there. Of course the towns could not live without the country, but it is also true that the country people are served in many valuable ways by the mills and elevators, the railroads, the churches, the telephone system, the markets, the stores, the hotels, the skilled tradesmen, the doctors, the hospitals and educational institutions, all of which are found mostly in the towns. Each helps the other and they should know that whoever would cause one to be envious of the other is not a true friend.

Alva is the first town of the county, being located and named before the opening of "The Strip" in 1893. When the Panhandle line of the Santa Fe railroad was built through the "Strip" in 1885-6, Alva was located as the first town south of the Kansas line. When the company sought a name for the new town, the suggestion was made that it be named Alva in recognition of the services of Alva Adams who was at that time an attorney for the Santa Fe. Later Mr. Adams moved to Colorado and became governor of that state.

Lots In Demand

On the day of "The Opening," September 16, 1893, many people "ran in" or came by train directly to Alva and took a city lot rather than a quarter section of land since the government gave them their choice. So it came about that Alva grew from an open field to a town of several hundred people all in one day.

Before the "Opening," the national government divided the whole country into counties, each of which was to be given the name of a letter of the alphabet.

This was called "M" county, and Alva was made the county seat with the United States land office located on what is now the court house square.

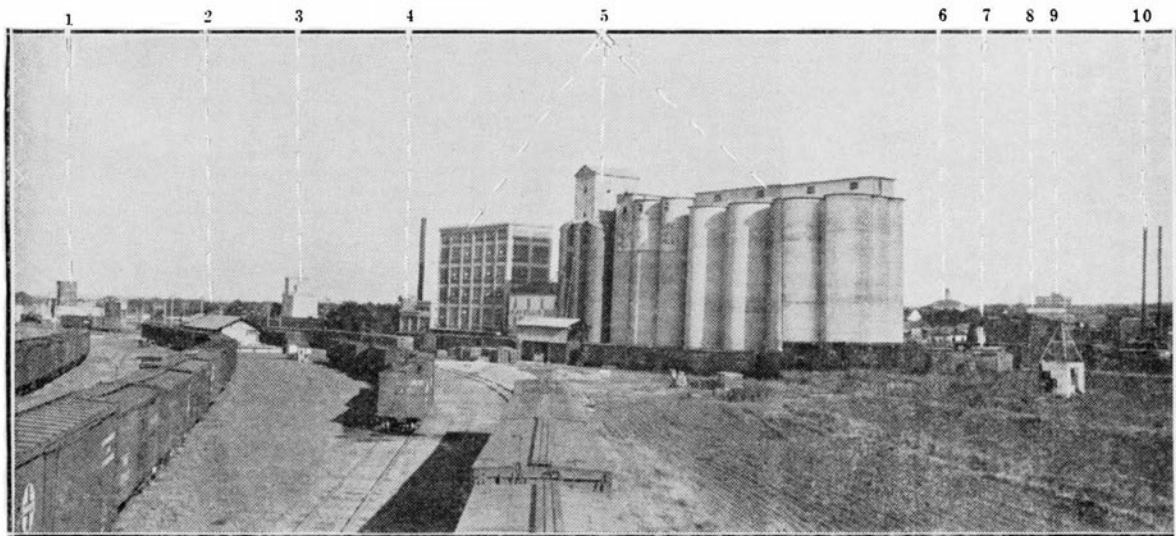
Townsite Described

The original townsite extended 3 blocks east, 2 south, 3 north, and 5 west of the square. Much of the original town was located between the square and the Santa Fe railroad. Every thing south of Church street, including the Northwestern college campus was vacant land and fields until the location of the college in 1897.

Aside from the general development of the agricultural industry of the county, especially the growing of wheat, the most influential and significant factors in the development of Alva have been the following:

Important Developments

1. Location of Northwestern State Teachers' college here in 1897.
2. Bridging of Salt Fork in 1898.
3. Erection of court house in 1898.
4. Construction of a city water system in 1899.
5. Extension of the Rock Island railroad in 1901.
6. Installing the light and power plant in 1903.
7. Construction of a city sewer system in 1907.
8. Closing of the saloons with the admission of the state into the union in 1907.
9. Paving of the city square in 1910-1911.
10. Coming of the Alva Roller Mills in 1916.
11. Voting of bonds for the erection of the city high school building in 1917.
12. Location of the U. S. highway 64 in 1924 (Albert Pike Highway, 1917.)
13. Purchase and equipment of the fair grounds in 1925.



ALVA INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. | 6. Court House |
| 2. A. T. & Santa Fe Freight Depot | 7. Bell's Ice Plant, Ice Cream, Pasteurized Milk |
| 3. W. B. Johnston Grain Co. | 8. Houston Lumber Co. |
| 4. Farmers' Co-operative Assn. Elevator | 9. Bell Hotel |
| 5. Alva Roller Mills | 10. Alva Laundry and Dry Cleaners |

14. Erection of Bell Hotel in 1926.
15. Bringing of natural gas to Alva, 1929.
16. Location air port, Western Air Express, 1929.

5,500 Population

At present Alva is a town of approximately 5,500 excluding the college students, who, added, make a community of 6,000 or 6,500. Its trade territory covers an area from 50 to 75 miles in diameter. Its industries and improvements include mills, elevators, wholesale groceries, poultry houses, hatchery, bottling works, coal and lumber yards, planing mill, steam laundry, ice plant, ice cream and milk pasteurizing plants, ten commodious churches, modern hotels, numerous large gas stations with garages and skilled mechanics besides an excellent assortment of mercantile establishments — miles of pavement and scores of beautiful homes.



ALVA HIGH SCHOOL

No town of equal size in the state is better known throughout the country. In the first place it occupies a unique geographical position, being the largest town between Woodward on the south and Kansas on the north, and between Enid on the east and New Mexico on the west, a territory covering over 6,000 square miles.

CHAPTER XXIII

WAYNOKA AND AVARD

Waynoka

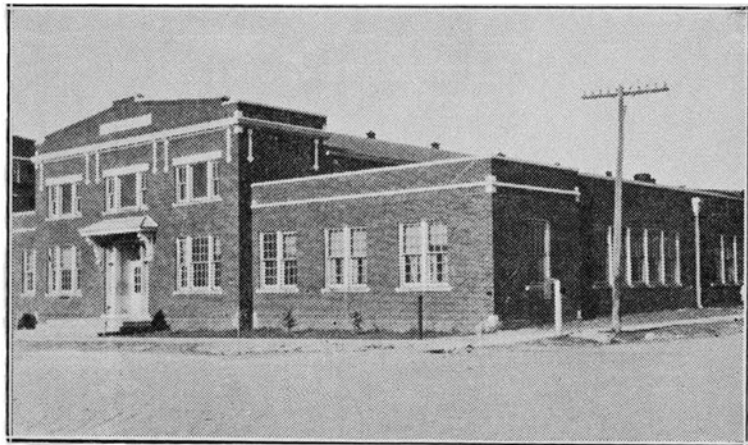
Next to Alva in size and importance among the towns of Woods county is Waynoka about twenty-five miles southwest of Alva. The name is of Indian origin—"Winneoka" meaning good water. When the Santa Fe railroad was built through the county, seven years before the opening of the "Strip" a shipping station and a section house, with small amount of siding was located here. Immediately after the "opening" a town-site was offered by John Keifer, who had filed on the land as a homestead. George Nickerson, Charles Cecil and W. H. Olmsted joined with Keifer in platting the town. Mr. Nickerson put in the first store and Mr. Olmstead established a lumber yard and carried a stock of farm implements. Soon Waynoka developed into a splendid trading point for all the southern part of the county.

Waynoka has become a very attractive urban community of approximately two thousand people. City water, light and sewer systems, the paving of the entire business district, a beautiful city park, a large variety of mercantile establishments, good churches, many comfortable and attractive residences and a fully accredited high school make a town of which the people are justly proud.

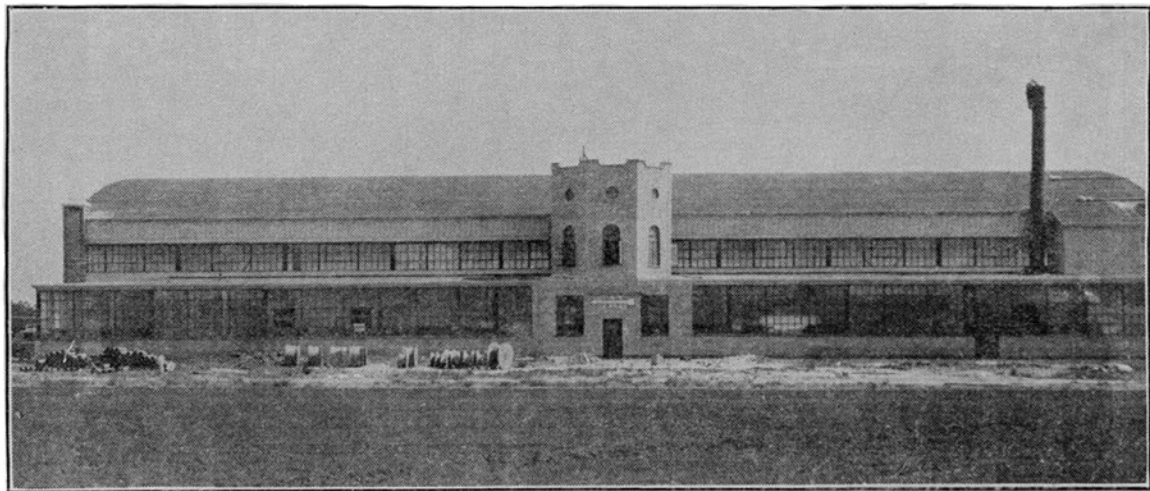
By making Waynoka a freight division point, with residence for approximately one hundred employees, and by establishing a Harvey Eating House here, the Santa Fe railroad has contributed much to the development of the town. The establishment of an air port by the Guggenheim Transcontinental Air Service

near Waynoka promises to be of nation-wide interest. This air service is operated in connection with the Santa Fe railroad, the passengers traveling by air during the day and taking the fast through train at night. Thus Waynoka promises to become one of the household names to a large part of the country.

A water supply, 99 per cent pure was secured 3 miles southeast, where the Santa Fe constructed a pumping station with 10 wells, which supply water for the round house and ice plant. On the securing of water, a large round house and machine shop, car repairing and storage house were established. Here the Kansas Ice Company constructed an ice manufacturing plant, the largest in the state. California fruit cars are iced here. A well-equipped reading room is maintained primarily for Santa Fe employees.



WAYNOKA HIGH SCHOOL

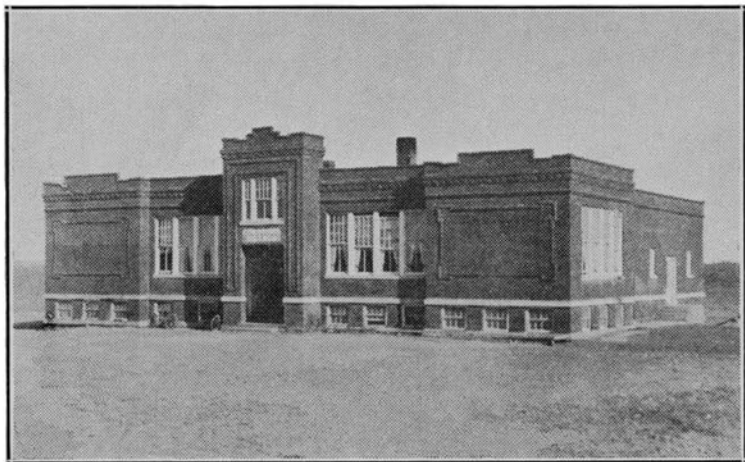


WAYNOKA AIR PORT

Avard

Avard received its name from the mother of Frank Todd, from whom the land on which Avard is located was purchased. The town came from the efforts of A. F. Wolf, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, who in 1904 anticipated the extension of the Frisco railroad westward from Enid. As Avard is the end of the Frisco line and here intercepts the Santa Fe it makes a valuable junction and calls for the location of a town. It now has a population of about 350.

Most of the surrounding country is very productive and Avard makes a good local trading and shipping point. The town has a full supply of mercantile establishments, a good bank, which Mr. Ed S. Roberts established at the beginning of the town. Mrs. Roberts has been vice-president and active in the bank since its establishment. Mrs. Roberts is one of the best known authors of this part of Oklahoma. Her published works



AVARD HIGH SCHOOL

include "Genealogy of the Oklahoma Daughters of the American Revolution;" "Four Revolutionary Soldiers and their Descendants," and "Some Colonial Families." She is also a frequent contributor of feature stories to the metropolitan press.

Mr. M. T. Pugh is another of Avard's most enterprising and benevolent citizens. He has done much to promote the development of interest in drilling for oil near Avard.

Irene Goulter, a well-known missionary to China, hails from Avard.

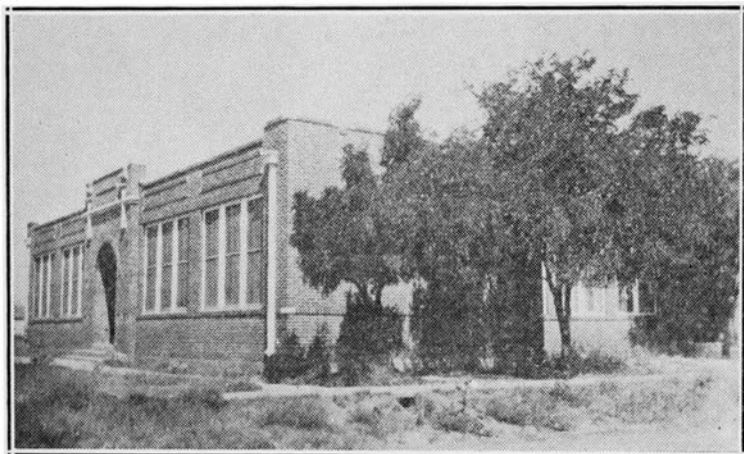
CHAPTER XXIV

FREEDOM, CAPRON, DACOMA

Freedom

Freedom was born in 1918, as the result of the building of the Waynoka-Buffalo railroad up the Cimarron valley. W. W. Vincent and A. T. Walker two courageous pioneers, undertook the construction of this railroad with their own resources but sold to the Santa Fe when the work had progressed as far as Freedom. The new town was to be named "Annis" after one of the pioneers but when the name was submitted to the U. S. Postal Department it was rejected since that name had already been given to another post office in the state, and the name "Freedom" was substituted by the postal authorities. The name is characteristic of the country and its people and has always been popular.

The town has a population of 400 and is support-



FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL

ed by a large trading territory extending up and down the Cimarron valley for more than thirty miles. Among its early settlers was Marion Clothier, who in 1889 established the first post office of the county west of Alva. He was an outstanding character in many respects, strongly supporting all civic, educational and religious movements, and sitting in the State Legislature for two terms. Q. A. Winningham was the first merchant in the new town. Jim Brown, R. I. Eden, Robert Spencer and Bunk Snapp were among the early ranchers and shippers who were builders and boosters for the community.

Freedom is a forward-looking, ambitious town with many flattering prospects. Many of the mercantile establishments compare favorably with those of towns three times its size, notably the Farmers Co-operative Co., Frank Kamis General Store, Art Hepner's grocery, Reily and Dygert grocery, Clifford and Parsons hardware, Sam Updegraph hardware, and the Starr lumber company. Probably the most appreciated of all business establishments is the Freedom State bank whose cashier and manager is Senator D. H. Powers. Senator Powers is the president of the local Chamber of Commerce and is recognized as the outstanding citizen of the community which he has often served in its civic and economic affairs.

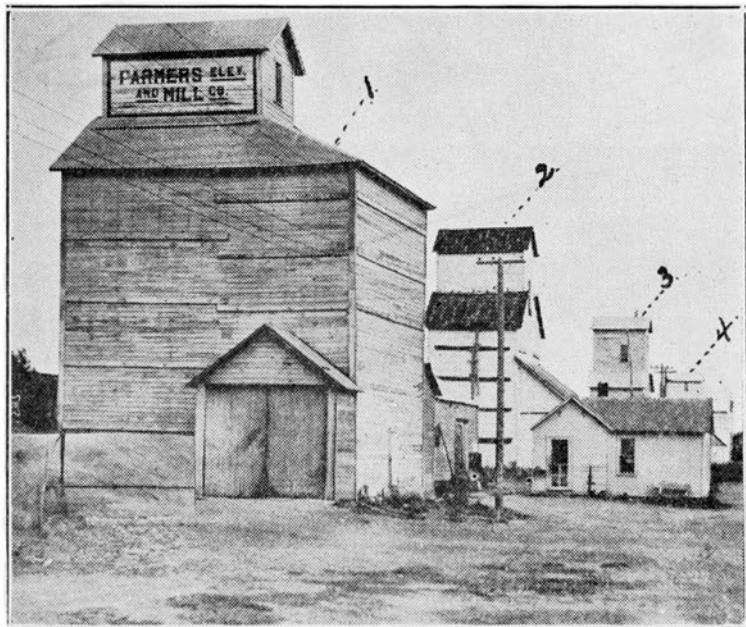
Freedom's commercial interests are so exceptional as to make it one of the most important shipping points of its size in the entire state. Last year (1928) it received and distributed 37 cars of machinery, 100 cars of gas and oil and 327 cars of other freight; while it shipped to world markets, 146 cars of stock and 463 cars of wheat.

The main center of community interest is the fine

consolidated high school. Here scores of boys and girls in the western part of the county find their only opportunity to secure a high school education.

Dacoma

For several years Dacoma tried two other names before a group of citizens finally asked the U. S. Post Office Department to give it the manufactured name of Dacoma. The extension of the Frisco railroad westward to Avard created the demand for a town at its present location.

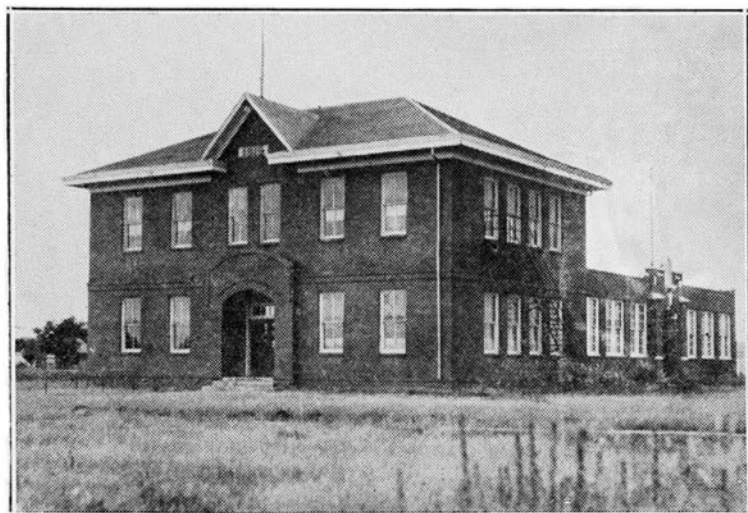


DACOMA WHEAT ELEVATORS

1. Farmers Mill and Elevator Co.
2. Choctaw Grain Co.
3. Enid Milling Co.
4. Farmers Mill and Elevator Co.

The most important fact affecting the history and development of Dacoma is its fertile wheat-producing territory. It would be difficult to find two other towns in the state that are more beautifully and more richly environed by endless fields of wheat than are Dacoma and Capron, the one 14 miles S. E. and the other 11 miles N.E. from Alva.

In Dacoma there are five large elevators that market annually more than one-half million bushels of wheat. In addition to these Mill and Elevator Companies Dacoma has some of the best business establishments of the county: among which should be named the A. W. Lewis Lumber, Grain and Coal Co. (G. W. Crowell, partner), the State Bank of Dakoma, J. H. Dye, cashier; C. V. Poulson, grocery and hardware; George Whittet, grocery; W. E. Hiatt, general store; P. E. Swan and Co., dry goods and ready-to-wear; and



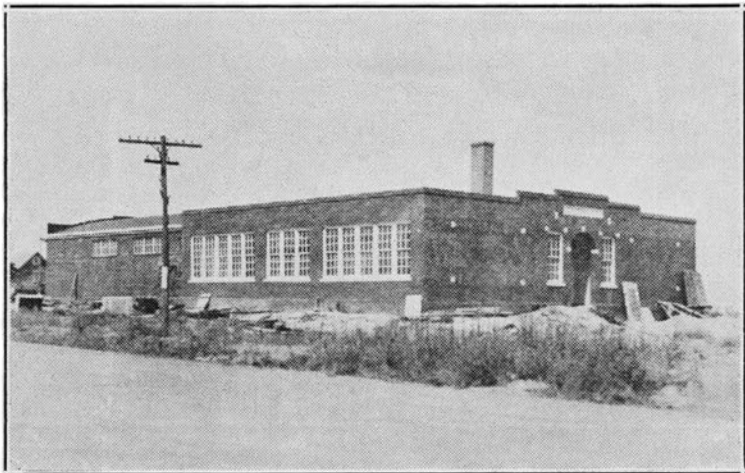
DACOMA HIGH SCHOOL

the very unusual garage and repair shops of Bruner Bros.

Dacoma is particularly proud of her moral and cultural advantages. With a population of 400 it boasts two thriving churches, a well equipped fully accredited high school in a handsome brick building, and several beautiful modern residences.

Capron

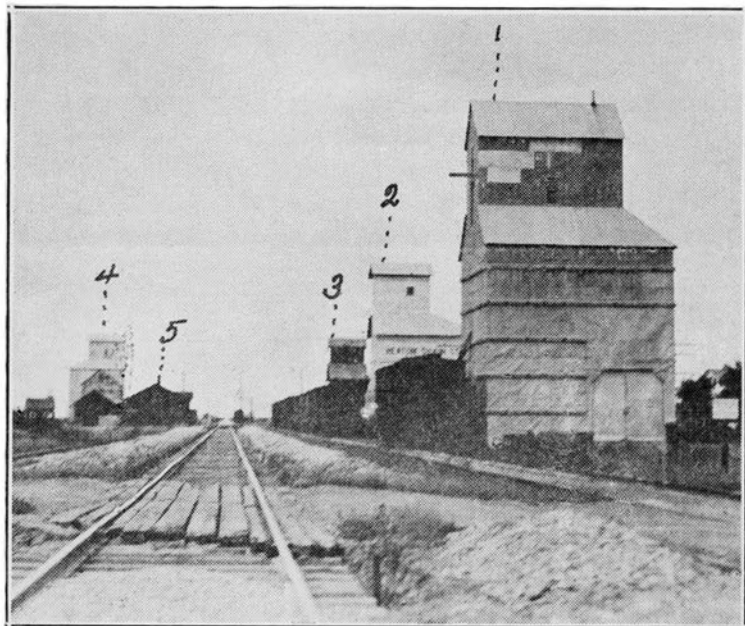
Capron received its name from Captain Capron, a personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt and a distinguished officer of the "Rough Rider" regiment. Before finally accepting this name it had tried Sterling, Kermit and Vergil. The town was established in 1895 by W. G. McClure on whose quarter section of land it was located. This land was purchased by Bud Mason of Kiowa for \$750, which amount was more than realized from the first sale of town lots.



Capron High School in Course of Construction

It has now grown to a town of over 300, supporting a good church and a fully accredited four year high school well patronized by both town and surrounding country. It has always been an important shipping point, stock being driven here long distances from the west.

Like Dacoma the fact that makes Capron famous and prosperous is that it is surrounded by more than a quarter million acres of the finest wheat land in the



CAPRON ELEVATORS

1. Southwest Elevator Co.
2. C. E. Heaton Grain Co.
3. Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co.
4. E. A. Johnson Grain Co.
5. Santa Fe Depot

state. Supplying these wealthy farmers with gas and oil for their tractors; with machinery for their farms, and shipping their grain to the world's markets, makes Capron a thriving town all the year round.

CHAPTER XXV

NATIVE ANIMALS OF WOODS COUNTY

Extinct Animal Life

There are few topics more interesting to boys and girls than animal life. First they should know that in the long ages past, when our coal and oil were being deposited, and later when the limestone rocks were being made, all of this country was a vast sea, and that many huge saurian (reptile-like) animals lived in this sea. The remains of some of these can be found in the deep river banks a few miles south of Alva and in other parts of the county. Some of the bones of these monster extinct animals are found in the Museum of Northwestern State Teachers' College.

Reports of Early Travelers on Our Animal Life

Edwin James, Major Long, Washington Irving, Colonel Albert Pike and other early explorers of this southwestern country call attention to the great variety of wild birds and beasts that inhabited this particular section nearly a hundred years ago. The broad, moist beds of the streams attracted great numbers of geese, ducks, pelicans, snowy herons and long plumed egrets; the rank and abundant grass gave protection and nesting for prairie chickens and turkeys, and food for great herds of deer, antelope, elk and buffalo. The rugged crags of the gypsum hills attracted numerous golden eagles; the deep canyons gave ideal protection and homes for the big lobo wolf, the coyote, the bob-cat, the coon, the opossum, the badger and the frequent, but not numerous panther, catamount and black bear. Of course, prairie dogs, snakes, jack-rabbits and cotton-tails were abundant.

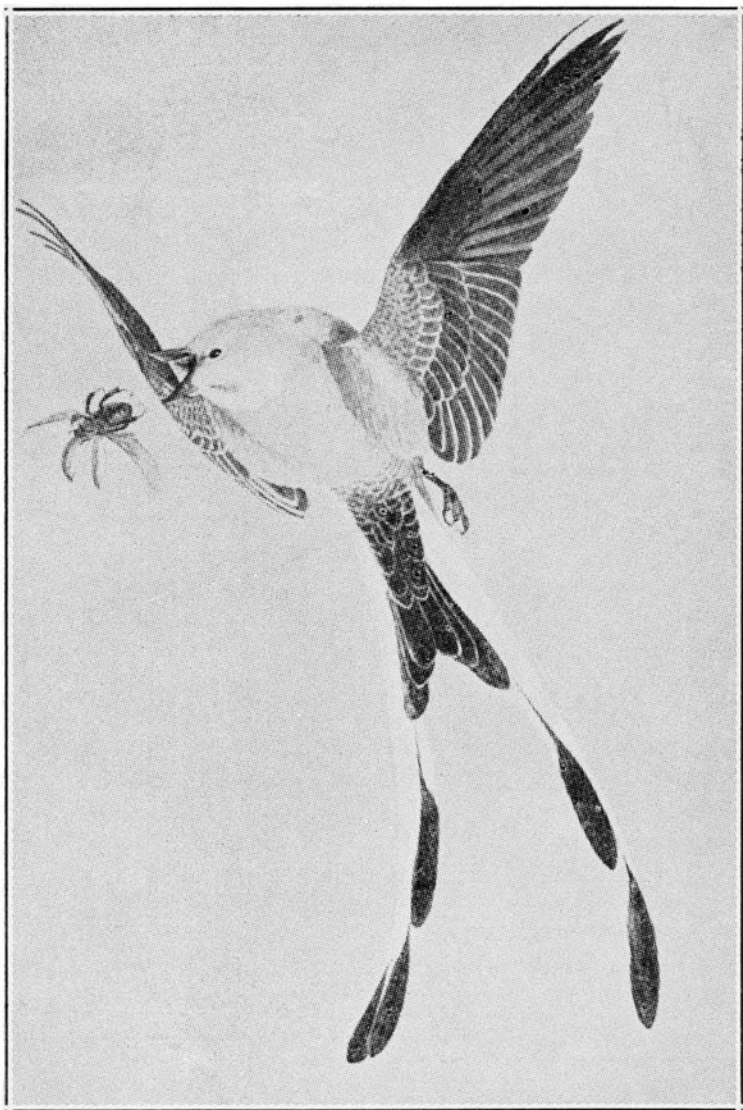
Because of the great abundance of the animal life, these early explorers have stated that carrion birds such as "the turkey buzzard, black vultures, raven and crows appeared in swarms like blow-flies." Before the occupation of the white man this was a veritable Garden of Eden for hunters and trappers. The bird life was varied and attractive. S. W. Woodhouse made a list of 142 species for the southwestern country as early as 1850. In 1903 Dr. G. W. Stevens, then a professor in "Northwestern," listed 227 varieties of Oklahoma birds, and later, in 1908, Professor T. C. Carter, of "Northwestern," has listed and carefully described 162 varieties, many of which are found in Woods county. Mounted specimens of most of the birds and wild animals of Woods county can be seen in the Museum of Northwestern State Teachers' College.

A List of Present Birds

Here is a list of 37 of the most common and most interesting birds that are now to be found in Woods county. We think all the boys and girls should know them at sight and should know when and where to find them. We are dividing the list into song birds and game birds although some of them hardly belong in either class. They are arranged alphabetically.

Song Birds

Blue bird, Baltimore oriole, black bird, brown thrasher, blue jay, cardinal, crow, cow bird, dickcissel, flicker, hummingbird, indigo bunting, king bird, kingfisher, mourning dove, mocking bird, meadow lark, red-headed woodpecker, robin, road runner, scarlet tanager, scissor-tailed fly catcher, sparrow, shrike, and gold finch.



The Scissor-Tailed Fly Catcher—the most characteristic bird for this part of the country. They are abundant in Woods County.

Game Birds

Crane, curlew, duck (many varieties), geese, golden eagle, heron, jack snipe, owl, pheasant, plover, prairie chicken, quail and swainson hawk.

Game Fish

While this is not a good fishing section of the country, there are a great many fish taken from the Cimarron and Salt Fork and such bayous as the Winchester lake. In these streams, the most common and important fish are the channel cat, the river and mud cat, the blue bill cat, the buffalo, the bass, the perch and the carp. To satisfy the demand for local anglers, there have been built several privately owned lakes. These are well stocked with black bass, croppie, bream, and perch, the finest game fishes. Among the best known of these lakes are the Armour Crystal lake, the Kendall lake, the Wilson lake, and the Haines-McGerry lake, all in the southern part of the county; the Hale lake, southeast of Waynoka; the Gatz lake, southwest of Alva, and the Gutsch lake, southwest of Dacoma.

Fur-bearing Animals

Woods county is especially rich in fur-bearing animals. A local dealer in Alva has supplied the very interesting data given below. From September 1, to January 18, 1928-29, he paid out for pelts:

Kind	Number	Prices Pd.
Coon	25	\$ 150.00
Badgers	50	250.00
Coyotes	150	900.00
Muskrats	300	200.00
Civets	500	375.00
Skunks	3500	7000.00
Opossum	7000	5250.00

CHAPTER XXVI

SOME BUILDERS OF WOODS COUNTY

**Col. CHARLES H. ELDRED**

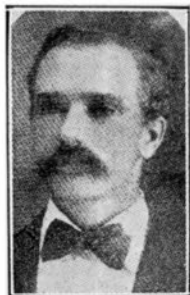
Organizer and executive secretary of the Cherokee Strip Live Stock Association. Chief source of official information about that remarkable organization.

**Sen. ALF G. UPDEGRAFF**

Woods County representative in Territorial Legislature and member of first State Senate. Aggressive fighter for Woods County.

**SCOTT CUMMINS**

The "Pilgrim Bard," author of *Reminiscences of Early Days, Shadow and Sunlight, Musings of the Pilgrim Bard, and Twilight Reveries*. Most interesting and loveable of frontiersmen and scouts.

**ANDREW JACKSON ROSS**

Able lawyer and editor. Wise, popular and efficient legislator. Science Hall, N. S. T. C. is the result of his service. Greatly beloved citizen.



Judge H. A. NOAH

Always in demand for unofficial public service. Always a booster, always a friend, always a leader. Associated with all public movements.



WILLIAM H. OLMSTEAD

Long-time legislator. Leading "builder" of Waynoka. Generous in support of all worthy causes and unfortunate people. Wise counsellor and active participant in religious, educational and political life of his community.



Prof. E. A. HEROD

The outstanding man in every circle he entered. Man of many talents and broad interests. Over 20 years professor in "Northwestern." Popular legislator. "Herod Hall" is a memorial to his great service.

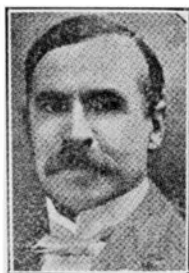


GEORGE W. BELL

Builder of industries, patron of all civic improvements, trusted and honored public servant. Hotel Bell commemorates the love and esteem of his fellow townsmen.

**JOHN W. MONFORT**

Modest, wise, efficient organizer and leader of men. Many - sided, encyclopaedic mind. Authority on all public affairs. Officially and intimately identified with practically all public improvements.

**SAMUEL L. JOHNSON**

Organizer of A. O. U. W. at Alva and Grand Master Workman of Oklahoma for twenty-five years. Valuable legislator. Good-road booster.

**J. P. RENFREW**

Courageous and liberal idealist. Writer and collector of history. Leader of the state press. Trusted public official. Always a great teacher through school and press. Lover of men and builder of his community.

**W. F. HATFIELD**

Founder of first Woods County paper, "The Alva Pioneer." Our most noted editor and publisher. For over 20 years sole custodian of the A. O. U. W. cemetery. Donor of Hatfield Park to city of Alva. Ideal pioneer and public spirited citizen.



